

17

SOME
PROCEEDINGS
IN THE
CONVOCATION,

A. D. 1705. Faithfully represented.

To which is prefix'd,

An Account of the several Ineffectual
Attempts at divers times made by
the LOWER CLERGY, towards
Quieting all DISPUTES, and
proceeding upon Synodical Business.

L O N D O N:

Printed for JONAH BOWYER, at the *Rose in Ludgate-
Street*, near the West-end of St PAUL'S, 1705.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CONVOCATION

A.D. 1705. Faithfully registered.

An Account of the several Lectures
Attempts at divers times made by
the Low E. G. & F. towards
Quieting all sorts of
proceeding upon medicinal business.



LONDON:

Printed by J. B. B. at the West-End of St. Paul's Church-Yard.

*To the Most Reverend, Right
Reverend, and Reverend, the
Members of the Convocation
of Ireland.*

THE following P A P E R S do,
among other Things, contain se-
veral Matters of Fact, which re-
late to the present Synodical Constitution
of Your Church. The Publisher of
them thinks, he can take no better way
to satisfy his Readers of the Truth
and Justness of those Representations,
than by appealing to the Testimony of
Your Venerable B O D Y.

He, moreover, apprehends, that the
Consequences of that D I S P U T E, to
which they refer, may, in the Event,
affect the Church of *Ireland*, no less

than that of *England*. As the Restoration of *Your* Legal Synods (sitting equal by the *Parliamentary*, and *Provincial* Writs) soon follow'd the Revival of *Ours*; So may it justly be presum'd, that the Fate of these several Assemblies will hereafter be the same; and that their Authority, Reputation, and Priviledges, declining in the One, will, in due time, proportionably sink also in the Other Kingdom. He, therefore, equally prays for the Prosperity of Both these Assemblies; and, after doing what in Him lies to promote it, cheerfully leaves the Issue of the Cause to Divine Providence.

THE

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“ I Have often affirm’d, and will always affirm, (says a Spanish Writer *, of great Probity and Worth) that the Restoration of the Church is chiefly to be expected from the Revival and Celebration of Provincial Councils; the Ruin thereof of having proceeded from the Cessation of them.” There is no Wise and Good Man, I believe, in the Church of England, who is not entirely of this Opinion. Great, therefore, were the Expectations of all such, when, about Eight Years ago, the Provincial Assemblies of this Church began to be regularly celebrated, after a long Intermission of them. Never was there a Time, when the united Counsels and Endeavours of the Clergy were more requisite towards checking the Enormous Growth of Infidelity and Prophaneness. Never (unless, perhaps, in some Instances, since that time) did Atheism, and Deism, appear abroad with so little Reserve, or take such open and avowed Methods of making Profelytes. The most rever’d Mysteries of our Faith were oppugnd from the Press, as Absurd Impositions upon Mens Understandings; the Immortality of the Soul, and the Certainty of a Future State, were not only deny’d, but exploded: All Reveal’d Religion was represented, as the Invention of designing Men for their own Advantage; nor were there wanting Impious Pens, that treated our Blessed Saviour himself, and his Everlasting Gospel, with as much Contumely and Scorn as they could have express’d, in relation to the foulest Impostures of Mahomet. They, who did not allow themselves in these Excesses, yet stood by and observ’d them too patiently, without being much concern’d at the Consequences of them, and without making any the least Attempt to restrain them. The Spirit of Piety, and true Christian Zeal declin’d every day; and, in the room thereof, an Irreligious Indifference and Insensibility (or, as a free Writer of that Time call’d it, A Travelling Religion) prevail’d. Our Enemies of the Church of Rome.

* Vargas, Lett. p. 33.

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Rome saw their Advantage, and were not backward to improve it; the Harvest was great, and therefore they sent forth more Labourers into it: So that the Missionaries, from the several Congregations, de propaganda fide, and Infidelitate, were at the same time employ'd to subvert the Establish'd Religion, and to corrupt the Purity of the Faith, once deliver'd to the Saints. Nor were their Attempts, on either Side, without a Remarkable Degree of Success.

It was at this Juncture that the Legal Assemblies of the Clergy, concurrent with those of Parliament, were happily reviv'd. How did Good Men please themselves with the Prospect of great Benefits, that would from hence redound to Religion? But their Hopes vanish'd, when, presently after the Opening of the Synod, an Occasion was taken to exact from the Lower Clergy such a servile and unprecedented Attendance on the Upper House, and such an implicit Surrender of their known Rights and Priviledges, as they could not, in Decency, or Conscience, comply with. Hence a Dispute arose, the sad Effects of which continue to this day, and have prevented all the Good that might, and ought to have been done, by the wise and pious Resolutions of such an Assembly.

* See the
List of
them,
p. 24.

If any Man can doubt, Who they were that gave rise to this Dispute, and are therefore answerable for the sad Consequences of it, let him read the following Papers. Even there he will find Enough to satisfy him, that the Innovations *, which kindled this Flame, began from the Upper House, and were, with great Temper and Calmness, resisted by the Lower; who only stood their ground, when attack'd, and claim'd no other Rights than what were highly reasonable in themselves, agreeable to the Nature and Usages of such Bodies, consistent with all the Regards due to Episcopacy, and quietly enjoy'd by their Brethren of the Convocation of Ireland, without Detriment to the Peace of that Church, and with the entire Approbation of their Ecclesiastical Superiors. And, therefore, the Eager Opposition that was made to these Innocent Claims, would have been utterly unaccountable, did we not consider, That such Disputes within Doors, are often times fed by Springs that arise without, and govern'd by Causes of a Foreign Nature, and of an unseen (but powerful) Influence: For though an United Clergy are always most capable of doing Service to Religion; yet there are some Purposes, which at some Times, and Seasons, are better serv'd by their Division than their Union. Indeed, Good Men, without Experience, or without a due share of Penetration and Wariness, may now and then be deceiv'd into such Measures: But God forgive Those, who are knowingly made the Instruments of promoting them!

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The Clergy could not honestly surrender the Rights, of which they were appointed Guardians, by the Constitution. However, after the Dispute broke out, they left nothing unattempted, that might bring it to a speedy Decision. The Particulars are worthy of Remembrance; and, therefore, the sincere Lovers of Peace, and our Order, will not be displeas'd with a short Recital of them.

In the very Entrance of the Dispute, when the Lower House saw, that it was likely to be protracted to a great length by an Exchange of written Defences, and Replys, which were growing very voluminous, they propos'd [March 31. 1701.] a Verbal Conference, in which all things might be adjusted after the most free, easy, and expeditious manner. But this Request, tho' made [and repeated, Apr. 3. 1701.] with great Earnestness, and tho' agreeable in every respect to the former Practise of Convocation *, was yet peremptorily rejected.

* Dec. 12. 1661.

Dominus

Prolocutor ad Præsidentem & Domum Superiorem missus est ad petendum Se cum tribus, vel duobus, aliis e Domo Inferiori admitti ad Conferendum cum Episcopis—which was presently granted. See Syn. Ang. p. 92. And so was the like Request in 1689. See the Acts.

They then try'd to compose things within themselves by a Committee of Sixteen †, Eight of which were profess'd Adversaries to the Claim of the Lower House, and, for that reason, nam'd of the Committee. All the Sixteen, after some Debate, came at length to agree in Three Resolutions, which were look'd upon, as an Effectual Expedient for the quieting of all Differences. And so indeed they were, had they been pursu'd. But, instead of that, when they came to be reported to the House, Feb. 12. the same Persons, who had pass'd them Unanimously in the Committee, being now instructed not to comply with them, laid hold of an Accident that luckily offer'd it self, that Morning, to break off the Treaty, and prevent a Conclusion. ||

† Appointed, Feb. 9. 1701.

In the mean time a Member of the Lower House, who was zealous enough for their Priviledges, but still more desirous of Union, propos'd An Expedient, in Print, for accommodating the Claims of both Houses, and preventing all Disputes for the future. * How more his good Wishes entertain'd? And He himself treated for the sake of them? Two Pamphlets soon came out, One, Reflections on a late Paper, Intitul'd, The Expedient †; Another, The Pretended Expedient. † Both, representing that Design, as Romantick, and Absur'd, and handling the Author in such a free manner, as could not but discourage all future Pens. from making the like Proposals.

|| See Faithful Account, Numb. I.

* A. D. 1701.

† 1702.

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fals. And yet no Other Expedient was offer'd by those, who thus anatomis'd, and ridicul'd This; no one Piece was ever written on that Side, that propos'd the healing of our Divisions, on any other Foot, but that of an Absolute Submission to the [pretended] Authority of the Arch-Bishop and his Suffragans. Victory was the thing aim'd at, and not Accommodation.

*When the next Convocation met, her present Majesty had ascend-
ed the Throne. And that Alteration of Circumstances induced the
Lower House to believe, that a new Experiment towards Peace might
be successfully made. And, therefore, the first thing they did, after
the Confirmation of their Prolocutor, was, to beseech their Lord-
ships, that, since they had not approv'd of a Verbal Conference,
they would be pleas'd to suggest some Method, whereby the
Controversy, then depending, might come to a speedy and final
Determination.**

* See Ap-
plication
of Nov. 2.

1702. in a Collection of Convocation-Papers, printed 1705. Numb. I.

*But their Lordships would suggest nothing of that kind, beyond
Two Proposals †: One of which granted the Clergy, what they ne-
ver ask'd, and indeed never was, or could be deny'd to them, the
Power of appointing Committees; and the Other, reserv'd to the
Arch-Bishop and Bishops all the Power in Dispute, with a Pro-
mise to exercise it in a Convenient manner. When a Month had
pass'd, and no better, or farther Terms could be obtain'd; the Clergy
made a Proposal of their Own ||: That, since it was not Reaso-
nable for either House to be Judge over the Other, in its Own
Cause, his Grace, and their Lordships would be pleas'd to per-
mit them of the Lower House to join with their Lordships in
an Humble Address to the Queen, praying, that Her Maje-
sty, out of her tender Regard to the Peace and Good Order
of the Church, would vouchsafe to take the Controversy into
her Princely Consideration, and appoint such Persons, as She,
in her Wisdom, should choose, to hear, and finally determine
it.**

* See ib.
Numb.
VII.

*But the Bishops absolutely declining any such Reference, the
Lower House were at length forced separately to Petition her Maje-
sty, That, out of her most gracious and peculiar Regard to the
Peace and good Order of the Church, She would vouchsafe to
call the Chief Question, then under Debate, into her Royal Au-
dience, and to direct such Examination and Determination of
it, as She, in her high Wisdom, should think fit. †*

† See ib.
Numb.
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The Reply was Gracious, in these Words, I will Consider of Your Petition, and give You an Answer to it so soon as I can. But both the Parties having not consented to such an Arbitration, neither hath this Petition it self had the desir'd Effect.

Nothing can better manifest the sincere Inclinations of the Clergy to Peace, than these several well-meant (tho' fruitless) Steps that they have took towards obtaining it. The Particulars are (most of them) register'd in the Journals of their House, and will remain there to future Times, a Lasting Monument of the Simplicity and Candor of their Intentions, and a Vindication of the Justice of their Proceedings, however Partiality, and private Views may at present have traduc'd, or disguis'd them.

There was but One Way more of silencing these Disputes, possible to be practis'd; and that was, by turning the Thoughts of the Synod upon Publick Business, such, as might deserve and engage all their Attention, and leave no Room for little Struggles among themselves. This Expedient also the Clergy frequently try'd: And though their Proposals of Business met with so cold a Reception above, with such slow and slight Returns, as sufficiently shew'd them to be unwelcome; yet they forbore not, from time to time, in most earnest and humble manner to repeat them; hoping for some Juncture, wherein their Superiors might at length be dispos'd favourably to receive such Applications, and to promote the Design of them.

After they first met, they appointed Committees; for Examining of Books lately publish'd against the Truth of the Christian Religion *—For Enquiring into the Causes and Occasions of the Corruption of Manners in this Age, and for considering of proper Methods for the Reformation of them †; as also for making Enquiries into Seminaries set up for the Instruction of Youth, in Opposition to the Universities of this Realm. A Committee, to consider of proper Methods for promoting the Christian Religion, as profess'd in the Church of England, in our Foreign Plantations ||, and for promoting the Worship of God among Sea-faring Men, whilst at Sea. And, Lastly, A Committee to receive and consider the Gravamina, and Reformanda, of Ecclesiastical Cognizances *.

One of these Committees quickly produced a Complaint against a Pernicious Book, written by Mr. Toland, and Intitul'd, Christianity not Mystrious. And had that Application been in the least countenanced, or regarded, Many Others from this, and from the Rest of the Committees, would have follow'd. But it was stifled in the Birth; and the very manner of receiving such Complaints,

* March 6. 1700.

† March 10. 1700.

|| March 13. 1700.

* March 22. 1700.

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gave the Clergy just Occasion for New ones. However, at fit Intervals, they persisted to reiterate their Complaints against this, and several Other Books, tending to subvert the Christian Faith, and to introduce Principles destructive of all Religion, whether Natural, or Reveal'd. They pray'd their Lordships to think of some Methods, whereby the daring Licentiousness of the Press, in such cases, might be restrain'd; They put them in mind of the great Decay of Church Discipline, of the Scandal given by Clandestine Marriages, and by the Non-observance of the Canons now in Force, particularly, in regard to Commutations. They inform'd them, how the Number of Non-licens'd Schools and Seminaries was of late multiply'd, and of what fatal Consequence they might prove to Church and State. They represented the manifold Inconveniencies to which they were liable, for want of an easy and effectual Method of recovering Church-Rates; the Encroachments made on the Clergy, in the point of Private-Baptism; and the Difficulties that lay on them, as to the Administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

These, and many other Heads of Business they suggested often, and much insisted on. They drew up, at One time, a large Representation of Grievances, under Twenty One Articles, the most important, perhaps of that kind, that, within an hundred Years past, had come under the Consideration of any of our Synods. At*

* Feb. 1704.

another time†, they offer'd a Paper, which I shall here print entire, because it recounts particularly some Applications by them made, and the manner in which they were receiv'd, and may be of use to satisfy the Reader, what Temper and Spirit the Clergy were of, and what Views govern'd their Proceedings.

† Dec. 1. 1704.

May it please Your Grace, and Your Lordships,

I*t is not without exceeding Grief, that we have found a General Complaint among all those who wish well to our Church, and especially among the Clergy, whom we represent, That, notwithstanding the Convocations of this Province have, after a long discontinuance, been, for some Years last past, duly and regularly held, yet the Publick hath not hitherto reap'd thereby any of those Benefits which might reasonably be expected from them.*

We are deeply sensible, that a Complaint of this kind doth not only cast a Reproach upon your Lordships, and upon Us, but doth also tend to the Disparagement of the Constitution of this Church, and gives Occasion to some Slandrous and Evil dispos'd Persons to utter rash and unsound Speeches against the Necessity and Usefulness of Ecclesiastical

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clesiastical Synods. We, therefore think it our indispensable Duty, to do whatever in us lies, for the time to come, in order to silence that Complaint, which we have constantly and earnestly endeavour'd, for the time past, to prevent. For we beg leave to observe to your Lordships, that, whatever blame the Whole Convocation may lie under, for having made so little Progress in Business relating to the Publick Good of the Church, yet the Clergy of the Lower House have all-along made such Advances therein, that they have been rather accused for being too forward, than censur'd for their Remisness.

A greater Progress had, without doubt, been made in the dispatch of Publick Business, had it not been interrupted by the unhappy Dispute between the two Houses, concerning the Manner of Synodical Proceedings. And we should think our selves justly chargeable with all the evil Consequences of those Disputes, if our Consciences did not bear us Testimony, that we neither rais'd them, nor, after their Rise, omitted any Means, which we could possibly contrive, for bringing them to a Regular Determination.

We had hopes, that all Differences between the two Houses, about Forms, would more easily and sooner be compos'd, if both entred upon business of that Weight and Moment, as, it might justly be conceiv'd, all the Fathers and Sons of this Church would unanimously promote. And the Lower-House would with gladness have received any Directions, which your Lordships, in your great Wisdom, should have been pleased to have given them, for the good of this Church. But when nothing of this kind was offer'd to them by your Lordships, your Clergy thought, they might, without being guilty of too great Presumption, make their humble Applications about such matters to your Lordships.

They did, accordingly, some years since, lay before your Lordships, several Positions (extracted out of a Book entitul'd, Christianity not Mystrious, and bearing the Name of J. Toland) which they judg'd to be Pernicious, Dangerous, Scandalous, and Destructive of the Christian Faith; and did pray your Lordships Concurrence, with their Resolutions, together with your Advice, and Directions what effectual Course might be taken to suppress Pernicious, Books, written against the Truth of the Christian Religion, and to prevent the Publication of the like for the future. Your Lordships were not hereupon pleased to declare to the Lower House your Opinions concerning the Positions presented to you, or concerning the Book in which they were contain'd, (which was, at the same time, laid before your Lordships) or to give your Clergy the Advice and Directions, which they humbly pray'd.

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After this, several other Books were publish'd, of the like pernicious Nature and Tendency; and it manifestly appear'd, that the Adversaries of our holy Faith, were so far from being deterr'd, that they proceeded to vent their impious Opinions with greater Assurance and Licentiousness.

The Lower House did in this Convocation, in all humble manner, remind your Lordships of this daring Liberty of the Press, through which several ungodly Books were still publickly dispers'd; and did then more particularly point at a scandalous Book, in which the Immortality of the Souls of Men was openly deny'd. But sufficient Notice was not taken of such Books; by reason whereof the Honorable House of Commons brought this matter under their Cognizance, and pass'd a Censure upon one of the Books by your Clergy complain'd of, to the great Honour of that Body, and not without reproach upon the Convocation then sitting.

The Clergy of the Lower House found no success from these their reiterated Addresses to your Lordships, who had been pleased to acquaint them, that, upon consulting Council learned in the Law, concerning Heretical, Impious, and Immoral Books, you could not find, how, without a Royal License, you had sufficient Authority to censure Judicially any such Books. Wherefore, tho' they were fully satisfy'd, that your Lordships might have comply'd with their Desires, without a Royal License, or might have obtain'd a License, if requisite; yet they were unwilling to press your Lordships any farther upon that Head, and went on to lay before your Lordships other Matters, in which there could be no doubt but your Lordships might interpose your Episcopal Authority, without the Intervention of a Royal License. They did therefore humbly present to your Lordships several Articles of Grievances, in hopes, that some of them at least, would appear to your Lordships, as all of them did to Them, worthy of present Deliberation and Redress.

Your Grace was pleased to acquaint them, " That an Order had
" been given for making out Copy's of that Representation, both for
" the present and absent Bishops, who, your Grace trusted, would
" make the proper use of them at all times, and especially at their
" Visitations, and would also call upon their respective Archdea-
" cons, to do all that was in their Power, in Theirs, to give them
" farther Information, and to redress Abuses as far as may be.

Your Clergy shall very much rejoyce, to be inform'd by your Lordships, that such Use hath been made, as your Grace trusted would be, of that Representation; and shall be very thankful to your Lordships, for what they shall learn hath been done by your Lordships for the Redress

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of those Abuses. And if any thing remains further to be done therein Synodically, the Lower-House will gladly joyn with your Lordships in so good and necessary a Work; as having no other End in their View, but a Reformation of such things as are amiss; and utterly detesting from their Hearts any such sinister Intention as they have been unjustly charg'd with, of bringing an Odium upon your Lordships, by the Representation they made: For which false and uncharitable Surmise, no ground was given either by the Matter, or Manner of that Representation.

Your Clergy do, with all Duty, submit the Consideration of these Things to your Lordships goodly Wisdom, and do most earnestly beseech your Lordships, that you would exert your Vigilance and Zeal, for rescuing Convocations from that Contempt into which they are in danger of falling, if they should be wholly useless to the Church and State; and that in order thereunto, your Lordships would condescend to impart to your Clergy the Result of your Lordships wise Consultations about what may legally and properly be done by this Synod, for the Honour of Religion, and for the Maintenance of the Doctrine, Worship, and Discipline of this Church; and would also candidly receive from your Clergy such dutiful Applications as they shall, from time to time, make to your Lordships, for these good Purposes.

At present, we think our selves oblig'd to repeat to your Lordships, a Motion formerly made by this House, concerning a Bill for the more easie and speedy Recovery of Church-Rates. We judge it highly requisite, that such a Bill should be drawn, and offer'd in Parliament, in order to remove the Objections rais'd against the present Method of Levying Church Rates, in some Cases, and to satisfy the just Expectations of those, who prevented the passing of a former Bill to this purpose, of dangerous Consequence to the Liberties of the Church, immemorially enjoy'd, and solemnly declar'd in the Statute of Circumspecte agatis. We, therefore, pray your Lordships, that some of our House, having Jurisdiction, may be permitted to joyn with your Lordships, in preparing the Heads of such a Bill, as may redress the Grievances complain'd of, without impairing the Authority of the Church in that behalf. And we think such a Bill, at this time, the more necessary, because of the great Damage done to several Churches, in this Province, by the late dreadful Storm.

We do also beg leave to take notice, of the many evil and pernicious Books, which are publish'd, and industriously dispers'd, to the Dishonour of God, and the great Scandal of this Church. And we do, with all Humility and Earnestness, repeat that Request which we formerly made to your Lordships, that you would be pleased to
take

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take this Matter into your most Serious and Paternal Consideration, and use your Interest in the Parliament, for the passing a Bill against the Licentiousness of the Press.

We do farther humbly represent to your Lordships, that there are, and encrease daily many Difficulties upon the Parochial Clergy, about administering the Holy Sacrament to all Persons indifferently who demand it, in order to qualify themselves for Offices; (as is requir'd by several good and wholesome Laws, very necessary for the perpetual Establishment, and Security of our Church) because We see not, how we can, in several Cases, act conformably to the Rubrick and Canons of the Church, in Repelling such Persons as are Unworthy, and, particularly, Notorious Schismatics, without exposing our selves to Vexatious and Expensive Suits at Law. We, therefore, most humbly beseech your Lordships, in Tenderneſs to the Clergy, over whom God hath made you Overseers, to employ your Interest for the freeing Us from these Difficulties; and, in the mean time, to give Us your Paternal Directions, how you think it fit, we should behave our selves under such Exigencies.

The Coldness and Neglect, with which all these Requests were receiv'd, was very amazing. Of Some of them no manner of Notice was taken: Upon Others, the Bishops contented themselves to make Observations in Writing, without imparting them to the Clergy, and without Entering them in their Books, where recourse might be had to them: Or, perhaps, the Arch-Bishop, at the Close of the Convocation, made a Speech to the Lower House, and said in it somewhat, concerning the several Proposals that had been made by them; and there the matter rested, without any farther effect.

When Business of high Consequence to the Church, and such as was likely to do Honour to the Promoters of it, was started by the Clergy; Attempts of the same kind, without doors, were set forward, which might supersede Theirs. Thus, when the Committee, I have mention'd, was appointed * to consider what might be done
* March 13. 1700. towards propagating the Christian Religion, as profess'd in the Church of England, in our Foreign Plantations; and that Committee (compos'd of very Venerable and Experienced Men, well suited to such an Enquiry) had sat several times at St. Paul's, and made some Progress in the Business referr'd to them; a Charter was presently procur'd to place the Consideration of that Matter in Other Hands, where it now remains, and will, we hope, produce Excellent Fruits. But whatever they are, they must be acknowledged

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to have sprung from the Overtures to that purpose first made by the Lower House of Convocation.

The want of a Royal License was the perpetual Objection made use of to discourage their Requests. It might as well have been pretended, that a Licence was necessary to Address, as to dispatch any of the Business they offer'd (in the manner they offer'd it) to be consider'd. But if the Objection were Real, some Care methinks should have been taken to remove it. The Powers requisite for this purpose might, if ask'd, have been certainly, and easily obtain'd from the most Gracious of Princes, now sitting on the Throne, who, without being ask'd, hath been more beneficent to the Clergy, than all Her Predecessors since the Reformation.

While all Motions from the Lower House, which tended towards Business, were thus check'd and repress'd. No Offers of the same kind were ever made from the Upper; nor any thing in Eight Years propos'd from thence, besides an Address, now and then, with some Discriminating Clause, which might turn to the Reproach of the Clergy, if they comply'd with it, and render them Obnoxious, if they refus'd it. We know, who said——If a Son shall ask Bread of any of You that is a Father, will he give him a Stone? Or if he ask Fish, will he for a Fish, give him a Serpent? Or if he shall ask an Egg, will he give him a Scorpion? The Reverence I bear towards our Spiritual Fathers, inclines me rather to leave the Application of these Words to the Reader, than to make it my self.

Upon the whole, therefore, it is Evident that the Clergy did, whatever they could, first, to remove Obstructions of disputed Rights and Priviledges, which were laid in the way towards Business; and, then, to bring on such Business, as might effectually quiet their Disputes about Preliminary Forms and Usages. If in neither of these Attempts they succeeded, it was their great Misfortune, but in no degree their Fault. They could not possibly make greater Advances than they did towards Peace, without betraying the Trust that was reposed in them, and giving up every thing without Distinction, that was demanded. And had that been done, yet I much question, whether they had been, after all, nearer to the End which they aim'd at. For, whoever reflects impartially on what pass'd at that time, will be apt to conclude, that the Disputes between the two Houses were not the true Cause, why they did no Business; but rather, that the Resolution taken to prevent their doing Business, was the real and only Occasion of their Disputes. And, therefore, whatever Concessions had been made, would have been so far from altering that Resolution,

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Resolution, that they would have confirm'd it, by making it easier for Those, who had taken it up, effectually to pursue it.

I say not this, with any View of raising New Jealousies; I had much rather be Instrumental in healing Old ones. Nor will I despair but that somewhat may be done towards accomplishing so desirable a Work by the approaching Convocation. A Committee of both Houses, that met with sincere Intentions, would not be long in finding out proper Expedients. I pray God to infuse into the Minds of All, who are Members of that Body, an unfeigned Love of Peace, and Wisdom to discern the Right Paths that lead to it!

ERRATA.

PRef. Page 1. Line 23. for *fouleſt* read *fooliſh*, p. 2. in Marg. for p. 24. r. p. 23, & 24. p. 3. l. 22. for *Claim* f. *Claims*. Book, p. 2. l. 1. for *ever* r. *even*, p. 24. l. ult. for *of Papacy* r. *of the Papacy*.



It is concluded, that the Disputes between the two Houses were not the more likely to be settled, but rather, that the Resolution taken to prevent their doing Business, was the real and only Occasion of their Disputes. And, therefore, whatever Congress had been made, would have been for far from abating the Disputes, but rather, would have been for far from abating the Disputes.

A Faithful ACCOUNT of some PROCEEDINGS in CONVOCATION, A. D. 1705.

NEVER did any Body of Men meet together, more heartily dispos'd to pursue the *Methods of Peace*, than the *Clergy*, called to *Convocation*, Oct. 25. 1705. They gave a clear Proof of it, on the very day of their Assembly; when, after choosing a *Prolocutor*, they forbore to exert their known Right of placing him in the Chair, because they found it vehemently oppos'd by some of their Brethren; and were unwilling, at their first setting out, to engage in a Dispute, which might have shed its Ill Influence on all their Future Proceedings. They contented themselves, therefore, with making an Entry in the Acts of that Day, that they wav'd their Claim for Peace-sake, tho' without receding from it.

When the *Prolocutor* was afterwards confirmed, both *His* and his *Presenter's* Speeches, breath'd nothing but an Earnest Desire of Peace, and of being employ'd in such Business as might answer the Expectations of the World, and the Ends of such Assemblies.

They found no Returns to these Advances, no manner of Encouragement to proceed in these Measures, and yet they persisted in them for *three Months* afterwards: Never once in that time attempting to meet on a Day, different from that appointed by the Bishops; tho' they were provok'd to it by an *Adjournment* of the *Upper House*, made for near *seven Weeks*, [viz. from *Dec. 15.* to *Feb. 1.*] and by a *Protestation* of some of their own Members, at the same time receiv'd and encourag'd by their Lordships, which tended not only to revive, but inflame all their former Differences, and of which a particular Account shall be given in the following Papers. Nor

had they ever on *Feb. 1.* directed an *Intermediate Session*, but that the Bishops did again on that day adjourn, for a *Month*, till *March 1.* and did, by that means, shew a fix'd Resolution to break up the Synod, as it were, and entertain no farther Correspondence with their Clergy. From that time, indeed, the Lower House resum'd the Exercise of their intermitted Rights, and gave over all Hopes of Accommodation. And if any Man can be so Partial as to blame their Conduct in this Case, I shall answer him only as *David* did his Brethren, when they expostulated with him about his going down to the Camp, *Was there not a Cause?*

But tho' the Methods taken by the Lower House to prevent a new Rupture, were ineffectual, yet still they hop'd, that their Differences might have been confin'd within the Walls where they arose, without any farther Appeals to the *Publick*. They were deeply sensible of the sad Consequences with which such printed Appeals were attended; of the Mischief they did to Religion, of the Disgrace they brought upon the Order, and of the Opportunities they gave to the Enemies of both, not only of sporting themselves with our Divisions, but of carrying on the Cause of Infidelity more successfully and securely. However, none of these Considerations restrain'd an Indiscreet Pen from imparting to the World, even while the Body was sitting, an Account of some of their *Proceedings*, which he thought capable of an Invidious Turn. His Pamphlet, though printed, was not as yet publish'd; but secretly sent through the Province, so as to reach those only who were most likely to credit, and disperse the Accounts given in it. It was not till *March 1.* that the Lower House had any notice of it; and then I find this Entry in their Acts.

“Whereas it was suggested that a Paper pretending to give an Account of the Proceedings of this Convocation, hath been printed, and privately dispers'd, it was mov'd that any Member that hath Possession of it, would be so just to the House, and to the Members, as to produce it, that the Truth of the Things therein related might be examin'd in the House; which no Member would produce, though One of them acknowledged that he had one, but never shew'd it to any one, but declar'd he had sent Three of them into the Country.”

At

At length One of these Pamphlets was, with great difficulty, procur'd, and laid before the House, *March 7*. But the *Members*, who were most concerned to answer for the Truth of the Facts related in it, being absent, it was thought proper to respite the Consideration of it 'till *March 13*. when every one, that had any thing to offer in justification of that Paper, might attend. On that day, "The Consideration of a Book [Intituled, *Proceedings in the present Convocation, relating to the Danger of the Church, &c.*] was resum'd; and, upon a full and particular Examination thereof, Recourse being had to the *Acts* of the House, and an Appeal made to the Memory of all the *Members* then present, the House came Unanimously to the following Resolution: viz. That the said Pamphlet doth contain a very *Disingenuous, Partial, False, and Scandalous Account* of the *Proceedings* of this present Convocation; That several considerable *Matters of Fact* therein represented, are directly contrary to the Truth, as it is attested by the *Acts* of this House, and that in the *Relation* of the *Debates* there pretended to be given, are divers *Material Additions, Omissions, and Variations*, highly injurious to the Honour of this House, and manifestly tending to the great *Damage and Defamation* of many of its *Members*."

After a *Vote* pass'd with so much Solemnity, upon a Mature and Deliberate Discussion of the Matters to which it refer'd, it would be altogether needless, to examine that Paper, and to trace the shameless Writer of it step by step in his *Fabulous Relations*. His Name, and his Talent of writing History, without any regard to Truth, are well known; and he hath given of late so many convincing Instances of it, as have quite sunk the Credit of his Works, and put them upon a Level with the Visions of *Varillas* and *Maimbourg*.

What I propose, therefore, in the following Sheets, is, not a Discovery of his Falsifications, but of Truth it self, by printing such *Original Papers*, and *Acts* of the Lower House (belonging to the Year 1705.) as may do Justice to the Cause, vindicate the *Reputation*, and clear the good *Intentions* of the Body; and that, chiefly, in these *Three Particulars*; Their Difference with the Bishops about the Form of an *Address*, the General Assertion of their *Rights*, and their Attempts to proceed upon *Business*. In the Two first of these, they were altogether upon the defensive; in the last, they were then, and at all other times, the first Movers, though without any

effect, besides that of discharging a good Conscience, and removing from themselves the Scandal of doing nothing worthy the Consideration of a Synod, at a Time when Atheism, Infidelity, and Prophaness were triumphant, and insolently defy'd all Authority, both Sacred, and Civil.

After the Prolocutor was confirm'd, the first Point upon which the two Houses clash'd (tho' without any open Breach) was the Form of an *Address*, sent down from the Bishops, Nov. 14. in the following Words.

To the QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of the Arch-Bishop, and Bishops, and the rest of the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, assembled in Convocation.

WE, your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Arch-Bishop, and Bishops, with the rest of the Clergy in the Province of Canterbury, assembled in Convocation, do with Hearts full of Gratitude, return our most humble Thanks to your Majesty, for your affectionate Care and tender Concern for the Church of England, as establish'd by Law, from your first Accession to the Throne, to this day:

The Assurances hereof having been so amply confirm'd by your own Exemplary Zeal for the Service of the Church, and constant Attendance upon it, by your unparallel'd Munificence to the poorer Clergy, and by your repeated Declarations, that the Church of England shall always be your chief Care; We are exceedingly griev'd, that any of your Subjects should be so ungrateful, and unworthy, as once to suggest, that our Church can be in danger, for want of such Support and Encouragement in your Majesty's Reign, as may make it flourish in your Own time, and leave it Secure after you. And altho' it is no new thing for designing Men to prostitute the Venerable Name of the Church to the Service of their own private Ends; yet we think it very strange, that any should be found so extremely weak and undutiful, as to be deluded by these groundless Clamours, when they have been so often, and so publickly confuted by your Royal Word and Actions; and when the happy State of the Church of England is so much observ'd and esteem'd abroad, that
several

several of the Foreign Churches are endeavouring to accommodate themselves to our Liturgy and Constitution.

To insinuate, That the Church is in danger under these Circumstances, and against all the Testimonies and Assurances of your Majesty's Royal Care and Protection, can proceed from nothing but Prejudice, Interest, and Ambition. And we humbly crave leave to express our just Resentment of the Indignity of all such Suggestions; not only, as false and groundless in themselves, but chiefly, as they are dishonourable Reflections upon your Royal Promises, for the Support of the Church, and upon your Princely Wisdom in choosing the most proper and effectual Measures to that End.

We beg leave also in a deep sense of your Majesty's Goodness, and an entire Dependence upon your Royal Word, to profess our great Joy and Satisfaction in the flourishing Condition of the Church under your most Auspicious Government. We are sure, it will always be in your Will to support and protect it; and that the Distractions, which these groundless Jealousies are intended to raise, may never put it out of your Power, we promise to use our utmost Endeavours to discountenance them, and in our several Stations to defend and preserve inviolably, so far as in us lies, the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of our Church, as by Law establish'd, and to promote Peace and Union among your Subjects: Praying earnestly for your Majesty's long and Glorious Reign over us, as, under the Divine Providence, the greatest Blessing, and Security, that either Church, or State, can enjoy.

Upon the first View of this Paper, two things will readily offer themselves to the Reader; that, among the several Methods by which the Church is there said to have been secur'd, no mention is made of (its Chief Security) the Protestant Succession; and that the Convocation is there represented as declaring, That all Insinuations of the Danger of the Church, (by Whomsoever made) could proceed from nothing but Prejudice, Interest, and Ambition. The One of these was thought a very material and unaccountable Omission, especially at that Critical Season; the Other, a very uncharitable Assertion. And these, I can truly affirm, were the Chief Exceptions which the Clergy had to that Address. However, they were loth to declare themselves freely upon Points of so nice and tender a Nature, not fit to be sifted in such Publick Assemblies, and scarce capable of being handled, without saying somewhat, that might look like a Reflection on their Superiors.

To

To avoid which, they choose to bury their Objections in Silence, and to offer a new Form of their own, which the Prolocutor carry'd up, Nov. 19. together with the Message annex'd.

WE, your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the ^{Clergy of the} Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, cannot but acknowledge, with the utmost Gratitude, that, as often as we have met together, fresh Occasions have been given us of repeating our unfeigned Thanks to your Majesty for the continued Assurances of your Zeal for the Church of England, as by Law establish'd.

It is impossible to doubt of your Majesty's most tender Affection for that Church, in which you were Baptiz'd, and have been Educated, whose Principles you have so thoroughly imbib'd, in whose Cause you have run so great Hazards, which is so eminently adorn'd by your Exemplary Virtues, so seasonably enrich'd by your unparallel'd Bounty, and on which you are incessantly drawing down farther Blessings from Almighty God by your ardent Devotion.

We are intirely satisfied that your Majesty can never be wanting to the Support of that Church at Home, which is powerfully protected by your Arms against a Foreign Enemy engag'd to Extirpate it, which by your Majesty's Royal Recommendation hath obtain'd an Happy Settlement among your Neighbouring Allies, and which, through your Majesty's Influence, may justly hope for an Establishment in those Other Reform'd Countries, which have already declar'd their high Esteem of It.

And, that no Demonstration of your Majesty's hearty Concern for the lasting Prosperity of this Church might be wanting, you have engag'd your Royal Word, (in which we intirely confide) not only for its present Support, but also for its future Security. You have frequently declar'd your Resolutions of maintaining the Succession in the Protestant Line; and, on that Account, have been pleas'd graciously to receive the Universat Thanks of your People; It being the peculiar Felicity of your Majesty's Reign, that We, your Subjects, to whom nothing upon Earth is so Valuable as its long Continuance, are yet by your Majesty's Example encourag'd to look beyond it, and to acknowledge your Majesty's Goodness in providing, for those who shall come after us, an Happiness, next to That which We our selves now enjoy.

After such undeniable Proofs of your Majesty's most pious Regard for the Safety and Honour of our Church, should we allow our selves to entertain

entertain the least Doubt of your Majesty, we should be the most unreasonable and most ungrateful of Men: And Whoever they may be, that labour to distract your Subjects with such unjust and groundless Jealousies, they are equal Enemies to your Majesty, and to the Church, whose Interests can never be divided.

It hath always been, and, by the Grace of God, shall ever be our earnest Endeavour, to instil into the Minds of your People, those true Principles of Religion and Loyalty, which our Church hath taught us; to render those, who are committed to our Charge, not only Obedient, but Affectionate to your Majesty's Government; and so to dispose their Hearts towards all the Offices of an Universal Charity, that, if possible, there may remain among them no other Contest, but, Who shall best approve their Duty towards God, and their Fidelity to your Majesty.

May it please your Grace, and your Lordships,

“ THE Address, sent down by your Lordships to the
 “ Clergy of the Lower House of Convocation, hath
 “ been carefully weigh'd and consider'd by them; and, af-
 “ ter mature Deliberation, they are of Opinion, That they
 “ cannot join with your Lordships in that Form: Nor did
 “ they think it so proper, or easy, to attempt the altering,
 “ or amending it, as to frame a New one; which they have
 “ accordingly done, and which I am directed to present to
 “ your Grace, for your Lordship's Consideration; and, if
 “ you please, for your Concurrence.

To this the Arch-Bishop reply'd, “ I beg your Pardon, I
 “ cannot receive it; but, pray, Retire.” And soon after-
 wards, when the Lower House were called in again, declar'd
 the Sense of the Upper House to them in the following
 Terms. “ We cannot receive the Address, which you have of-
 “ fer'd to us; but do require you to go back to your Own
 “ House, and consider the Address we sent down to you; and
 “ do expect, either that you agree to it, or bring up your
 “ Exceptions against it in Writing, the next Session.”

In Reply to this Demand, the following Paper was drawn,
 and laid before their Lordships, Dec. 1.

May

May it please your Grace, and your Lordships,

IN your Message of November the 19th, your Lordships requir'd us to consider the Address you had sent down to us: And, although the Lower House conceive themselves under no Necessary Obligation of considering again, what, they had declar'd to your Lordships that, they had maturely weigh'd and consider'd, and could not join in; yet, in deference to your Lordships, they have once more consider'd your Address; and, after the most serious Deliberation, find no reason to depart from their former Resolution, of not concurring with your Lordships in that Address.

Your Lordships were farther pleas'd to expect, that, if we did not agree to it, we should bring up our Exceptions against it. We humbly ask your Lordships Excuse, if we do not answer your Expectations in this particular; and hope to obtain it for these Reasons:

First, Because the Lower House apprehend themselves to be invested, by the Fundamental Constitution of an English Synod, with an unquestionable Right of dissenting finally from any thing propos'd to them by your Lordships for their Concurrence, without specifying the Reasons of such Dissent. And they should, in their humble Opinion, contribute to the weakning of this Right, if, after having in General declar'd, That they could not concur with your Lordships in your Address, they should nevertheless yield to your Lordships Demand, in bringing up Special Exceptions against it.

Secondly, Because your Lordships Demand of such Special Exceptions, after we had declar'd such a General Dissent, is contrary to the known Methods of Proceeding in Assemblies, which consist of two Houses; and not warranted, as we verily believe, by so much as One Precedent, in all the Records of Convocation.

But, were it possible for us to comply with this Demand of your Lordships, without prejudicing our Rights; yet, we are the less encourag'd in this Instance to waive them, because of your Lordships Refusal, even to receive the Form of an Address, offer'd by us. For we conceive it to be an Essential Right of the Lower Clergy, and One of the Means absolutely necessary to preserve a Communcation between the two Houses, That, Whatever Proposal can by us be lawfully made, should, when made, be receiv'd by your Lordships. Nor can
your

your Lordships, in this Case, ground your Refusal upon the pretence of any previous Irregularity in Our Proceedings; since your Lordships declar'd, That you could not receive Our Form of an Address, when you had not as yet requir'd the Reasons of our Dissent to Yours. And, however your Lordships may think Us blameable for not bringing up Exceptions, when demanded; yet, We hope, that, even in your Lordship's Judgment, We shall be acquitted of all Blame, if We did not offer our Reasons, before they were demanded.

We do, therefore, with all Humility and Earnestness, beseech your Lordships to take these Matters into your Grave and Wise Consideration; and, to receive that Form of an Address, which, with all Submission, We now again tender to your Lordships: Hoping, that your Lordships, upon your Perusal of it, will be satisfied, that the Lower House did not decline concurring in the Form sent down by your Lordships, for want either of an intire Confidence in Her Majesty's Affectionate Care for the Church of England, as by Law Establish'd, or a just Resentment of the wicked Practises of such Persons, as endeavour to raise any Jealousies concerning It.

To this Paper the Clergy never receiv'd any Answer, tho' the Bishops are said to have made some Observations upon it. So the Author lately mention'd assures us*, and hath printed, what he pretends to be, a true Copy of them; to which I refer the Reader, who desires to peruse them. I have no Authority to say, That the Bishops made any such Observations, nor any reason to depend on the Fidelity of that Historian.

Proceed.
ings in
the pre-
sent Con-
vocation,
p. 38.

This short Dispute being quieted, there was a Calm again 'till Dec. 15. when the Dean of Peterborough (since dead) desir'd leave of the Lower House to read a Protestation, that had been sign'd by many of the Members, and was allow'd to read it; "but not as a Paper receiv'd by the House, 'till the Substance thereof should be known:" Which clearly appearing from the first Paragraphs of it, he was interrupted, because, as the Acts speak, "the said Paper contain'd an Impeachment of the undoubted Rights and Priviledges of the House, and an Arraignment of their Proceedings in the present, and in several foregoing Convocations. And it containing a Charge of the highest Nature and Consequence; and many of the Members concern'd therein being gone into the Country, upon account of the approaching Festival; it was mov'd [and carried] that the farther Reading of that

" Paper should be adjourn'd to a *Full House*." But, before this Vote pass'd, the Dean, with several Others, withdrew, and offer'd their *Protestation* to the *Bishops*; who accepted it with Thanks, and order'd it to be enter'd in their Journal. Notice being given to the Lower House of these Proceedings, they appointed a Committee, to consult the Upper House-Register, and from thence to transcribe, what was done upon that *Protestation*. The Tenor of it, and of the President's Answer, in the Name of the *Bishops*, are here set down.

WE whose Names are under-written, Members of the Lower House of Convocation, have observ'd, with great Grief, that, for some Tears last past, several new Principles, and Practises, have been introduced into this House, contrary to the Usage of all former Convocations, and to that Duty which, as Presbyters, we owe to the Arch-Bishop, and Bishops; and tending directly to break the Unity of the Synod, under one President, the Metropolitan of the Province.

We had Hopes, at the beginning of this Convocation, that these Innovations would have been laid aside, at least for some time, that we might have proceeded quietly to Business, for the good of the Church, if her Majesty, in her Royal Wisdom, should have judg'd it proper to inable us by her Royal Licence. But finding now that these new Pretensions, and Practises, are still kept up, and fearing, lest, by our longer Silence, they should come to be reputed the Pretensions of the whole Lower House, and so gain Credit and Authority, either in the present, or future Ages; We think our selves oblig'd in a publick manner, to declare our Dissent; and accordingly We do now, in our Names, and the Names of those with whose Proxies we are intrusted, Protest against these following Particulars, being the chief of those Innovations, of which we complain, and with which, as we conceive, all the rest must stand, or fall.

First, That the Prolocutor prorogues the House with the Consent, and by the Authority of the House it self, and not by the Authority of the Schedule sent us down by the Arch-Bishop, the President of the whole Synod; the Effect of which has, in late Convocations, been the holding of Intermediate Sessions, and may be so again, whenever the House pleases; which Intermediate Meeting of one House, without the President, and the other House, is a manifest Breach of the Unity of the Synod, and very dangerous to the Clergy,

Clergy; because it has neither the Archiepiscopal, nor the Regal Authority, to justify it.

Secondly, The pretending to a Power to put the Prolocutor into the Chair, before he is confirmed by the Archbishop and Bishops, with an intent, as we have reason to believe, to invest him in one part of his Office; that of moderating of the Debates of our House before such Confirmation; which we take to be highly injurious to the Power of Confirming, lodged, by our Constitution, in the President, and Bishops; and which may betray the Clergy into attempts of doing Business, before they are, by our Constitution, qualified to act as a House; and which may bring insuperable Difficulties, if the President, and Bishops should see cause, tho' even for legal Reasons, to refuse to confirm the Person so elected, and pretended to be invested in one part of the Office.

Thirdly, That the House pretends to a Power, to give leave to their Members to absent themselves from their attendance in Convocation, and to substitute Proxies; which we take to be highly prejudicial to the Authority of the President, whose sole right it is, in obedience to the Royal Writ, to Summon the whole Convocation, to have the Returns made to him, to judge of the Causes of absence, and to allow, or punish it, as the Case requires.

Fourthly, That the House has elected an Actuary, in prejudice of the Right of the Archbishop, whose Officer is Register of the whole Convocation, and has constantly received, by the appointment of the Archbishop, a great part of the Fees paid by the Clergy of the Lower House, and has acted in our House by his Deputy, without the intermeddling of the House in that matter.

Fifthly, We think it fit, in the last place, to take notice of the late disrespectful, and undutiful Carriage of the House, to the Archbishop and Bishops, in rejecting an Address to Her Majesty, sent down by their Lordships, without making any Exceptions to it, and insisting finally upon one drawn up by themselves; contrary to the method observed in these Cases, in all former Convocations.

We are persuaded, that all these are Innovations, and such as tend to exempt the Presbyters from their Obedience and Subordination to the Metropolitan, and Bishops; and, consequently, such as must be dangerous to the State of Episcopacy: And we do believe them to be the more dangerous, because the Presbyters of this Church do already, by

Law, and Custom, enjoy greater Powers in Provincial Synods, than Presbyters have ever enjoyed in any other Episcopal Church.

We do, therefore, Protest against all the aforesaid Particulars, and do desire that this our Protestation may be Entered in the Acts of Our House.

<i>Verney, Pr. Cl. Lincoln.</i>	<i>Bearcroft, Pr. Cl. Cic. p. Gibson.</i>
<i>Freeman, D. Pet.</i>	<i>Rogers, A. Leicester. p. Willis.</i>
<i>Willis, D. Linc.</i>	<i>Kelsey, A. Sarum. p. Trimnell.</i>
<i>Boucheir, A. Lewis.</i>	<i>Claget, A. Sudbury. p. Freeman.</i>
<i>Trimnell, A. Norf.</i>	<i>Ep. St. Asaph. A. St. Asaph. p. Lloyd.</i>
<i>Stanley, A. Lond. per Willis.</i>	<i>Hody, A. Ox. p. Kennet.</i>
<i>Kennet, A. Hunt.</i>	<i>Ball, Pr. Cap. Pet. p. Freeman.</i>
<i>Mandevil, Pr. Cap. Linc.</i>	<i>Ep. Bangor. A. Bangor. p. Willis.</i>
<i>Cawley, A. Linc. p. Kennet.</i>	<i>R. Wynne, Pr. Cl. Bang. p. Lloyd.</i>
<i>Gibson. Pr. Cap. Chich.</i>	<i>Sedgwick, Pr. Cl. Linc. p. Verney.</i>
<i>Green, Pr. Cl. Cant.</i>	<i>Martin, Pr. Cap. Norw.</i>
<i>Griffith, A. Brecon.</i>	<i>Ep. Bangor. A. Anglesey. p. Lloyd.</i>
<i>Proast, A. Berks. p. Willis.</i>	<i>Price, Dec. St. Asaph. p. Freeman.</i>
<i>Ashton, Pr. Cap. El. p. Trimnell.</i>	<i>Jeffery, A. Norwich p. Martin.</i>
<i>Lloyd, Pr. Cl. Wigorn.</i>	<i>Whitefoot, pr. Cl. Norw. p. Martin.</i>
<i>Ep. Oxon. Dec. Wigorn. p. Lloyd.</i>	<i>Royse, Dec. Bristol. p. Trimnell.</i>
<i>Bull, A. Landav. p. Gibson.</i>	<i>Hayley, D. Cic.</i>
<i>Frank, A. Bedford. p. Kennet.</i>	<i>Lamb, D. Ely. p. Hayley.</i>
<i>Prideaux, D. Norw. p. Willis.</i>	<i>Tyler, D. Hereford. p. Hayley.</i>
<i>Jephcot, Pr. Cap. Wigorn. p. Lloyd.</i>	<i>Alix. Pr. Cap. Sar.</i>
<i>Lye, Pr. Cap. Bristol. p. Mandevill.</i>	<i>Owen. Pr. Cap. Menev. p. Lloyd.</i>
<i>H. Wynne, Pr. Cl. Bang.</i>	<i>Wickart, D. Winton.</i>
<i>Jones, Dec. Bangor. p. H. Wynne.</i>	<i>Worth, A. Wigorn.</i>
<i>Bentley, A. Ely. p. Freeman.</i>	<i>F. Lloyd, A. Merioneth. p. H. Wynne.</i>
<i>Lunn, Pr. Cl. El. p. Gibson.</i>	
<i>Prideaux, A. Suff. p. Trimnell.</i>	
<i>Stillingfleet, Pr. Cl. Wig. p. Lloyd.</i>	

“ WE give you Thanks for your Care, and Zeal, to pre-
 “ serve the Antient Constitution of the Convocation of this
 “ Province ; and, according to your desire, we have order’d
 “ your Protestation to be enter’d upon the Register of Convo-
 “ cation.

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These Proceedings were immediately follow'd by an *Adjournment*, for *seven Weeks*, 'till *Feb. 1.* which the Clergy, even after this ill usage, patiently comply'd with, and adjusted their Session to that of the Bishops; tho' not without Apprehensions of Scandal that might arise from their not meeting, as an *House*, and hearing Divine Service, and a Sermon, on *Jan. 30.* which they could not now do, without being look'd upon as Contemners of the Archbishop's Authority.

Upon *Feb. 1.* the Clergy from all Parts appear'd in great numbers; and then pass'd, and *subscrib'd* openly in their House, the two following Papers: One, containing a *Complaint* to their Lordships, concerning the *Protestation*, and *Protesters*; the other, a *Declaration of Rights*, in opposition to it.

To the most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of
Canterbury, and to the Right Reverend the
Bishops, the Clergy of the Lower-House of
Convocation, complain,

THAT, after all the advances by Us made, towards composing the unhappy Differences between the two Houses, and proceeding on such Business, as might be for the Honour of the Synod, and Benefit of the Church, unwarrantable Methods should still be practis'd by some among Us, and openly encourag'd by your Lordships, for the reviving and enflaming those Differences, and thereby defeating all the good Ends of our Synodical Assemblies.

For, to Our great Surprise and Grief, We find, that your Lordships, after your absolute Refusal to receive a Paper, regularly drawn up, and offer'd by our House, have, with Readiness, and Thanks, accepted, and entred on your Register, a Protestation against our Just Rights, and Lawful Proceedings; which hath been irregularly Contriv'd, Sign'd, and brought up by some few of our Dissenting Members.

The Approbation given by your Lordships to this Attempt, is as extraordinary, as the Attempt it self; for your Lordships have thereby taken upon You, to condemn Our House, unheard, even whilst it was actually Sitting; contrary to the known Rules of Equity, which in all Cases ought to take place; and which, we doubt not, your
Lordships

Lordships wou'd have observ'd, had a Complaint been exhibited by the House against any one of those *Protesting Members*.

Whilst your Lordships shall think fit to countenance such restless Attempts, of some private Men, who refuse to acquiesce in the declar'd Sense of the House, those Breaches must of necessity be widen'd, which might, by God's Blessing, long since have been clos'd, had any regard been shewn to our earnest, and reiterated Proposals, of ending all Disputes, either by a Verbal Conference, or a Joint Reference to any competent Authority.

The Subscribers of that Paper, so readily entertain'd by your Lordships, do therein charge Us with diverse pretended Innovations; but, in the unprecedented Methods of advancing that Charge, are manifestly guilty of more Innovations, than those they complain of.

For we observe to your Lordships now, what We wish you had given us an opportunity of representing sooner;

* Dec. 15. That this Protestation was first produc'd in the Lower House, at a * Time, when most of our Members were known to have retired into the Country, on account of the approaching Festival; and whilst We were as yet debating, whether the Consideration of it ought not in reason, to be adjourn'd to a full Meeting (to which, in the close of that Debate, We did accordingly adjourn it), it was, in a disorderly manner, withdrawn, and lodg'd with your Lordships; by whom, We presume, it would never have been admitted, but upon a false Suggestion, that it had been by Us already rejected.

That, of the forty nine Persons, whose Names are affix'd to that Protestation, All, except seventeen, protest by Proxy: A Practise, as We conceive, not to be justified by their acknowledg'd Right of Voting, when absent; since, in those Assemblies, where Voting by Proxies hath, for good Reasons, obtain'd, protesting by Proxies hath, for as good Reasons, been always disallow'd.

That, were Protesting, as allowable as Voting, by Proxy, yet Proxies can never, on any occasion, be made use of, before they are Exhibited: whereas None of those, who, in the Names of Others, sign'd this Protestation, and offer'd it to Our House, did ever there exhibit those Powers, by which they pretend to be entrusted.

That had those Proxies been duly Exhibited, yet it wou'd have been highly unreasonable to apply the General Powers therein contain'd to a Case of so singular a Nature, unless a special Direction from the Persons conveying those Powers, had been likewise given, to justify so extraordinary an Application. And it is One remarkable Instance of the Abuse of those General Powers, that a Reverend and

Antient

* *Antient Member of our House, is brought in, as protesting by his Proxy, against those Proceedings, which, when present, he concurr'd in. Which Abuse is still the greater, because his Proctor knew the Procuratorium, from the Chapter, to that Member, to be dated before the Call of this Convocation; and, by Consequence, Invalid.*

* *Tho. Owen, Proc. Cap. Meneven. per Proc. Will. Lloyd.*

That, of these seventeen Persons, who, as present, protest in their Own Names, and some also in the Names of Others, † several were Themselves Absent, when this Protestation was offer'd; and One of these (Dr. Trimnell) protests, as present, in the Name of Dr. Ashton, as Absent, when in Truth, Dr. Ashton, the Person represented, was present; and, Dr. Trimnell, his pretended Representative, was Absent.

† *Dr. Trimnell, Dr. Hayley, Mr. Worth.*

That || some Persons, who have Suffrages solely in their Own Right, and not as Representing Others, do yet, by virtue of several Dignities, protest, by different Proctors, in those different Capacities: Which Artificial Method of multiplying Subscriptions doth not in Reality encrease the Number of Protesters, or add any thing to the Weight of the Protestation.

|| *Humphrey Prideaux, Dean of Norwich, per Proc. Rich. Willis.*

Humphry Prideaux, Archd. Suffolk, per Proc. Ch. Trimnell.

Jo. Ep. Bangor, Archd. Bangor, per Proc. Rich. Willis.

Jo. Ep. Bangor, Archd. Anglesea, per Proc. Will. Lloyd.

We do likewise, among the Subscriptions, observe the Names of several of your Lordships, whose Right of Suffrage, in our House, by virtue of their Commendams, We willingly acknowledge; but do not apprehend, that Their protesting, as Presbyters, in favour of the Rights challeng'd by Themselves, as Bishops, carries with it any great Authority.

We wave many Other just Exceptions, which we have to that Paper, in point of Form; and proceed to make our Remarks on such Passages of it, as seem least to have deserv'd your Lordships Thanks, in order as they lie.

*The Protesters observe, with great Grief, what, for some Years, hath past in Convocation—An Observation, not very obvious to ** Those of them, who were never Members of any preceding Convocation; and still more difficult to be made by such †† as never appear'd even in This.*

** *Edm. Gibson, Rog. Griffith, Geo. Bull, Hu. Wynne, Will. Bearcroft, Tho. Ball, Rob. Wynne, Jo. Sedgwick, Geo. Martyn, Will. Worth.*

†† *Geo. Bull, Will. Worth.*

From

From such Persons We suppose that Suggestion to proceed, which intimates a Willingness on Their Side, and an Indisposition on Ours, to do Business; since None, who are not utter Strangers to Our Proceedings, can be ignorant, that all possible Steps towards Business have been all along taken, on Our Side, and all possible Obstructions as constantly given, on the Side of the Protesters: To which Evil purpose, We cannot but think, the present Protestation was chiefly intended.

It was, doubtless, the same Experience, which taught them, that the Practises, by them complain'd of, are still kept up among Us; Whereas, in truth, the holding of Intermediate Sessions, the putting our Prolocutor, when chosen, into the Chair, and the giving Leave of Absence to our Members, have been, for Peace-sake, intermitted; and the Rights protested against in the two last Articles, viz. that of formally Electing an Actuary, and that of Dissenting without Exceptions to your Lordships Address, are such, as We never had Occasion to exercise, 'till this present Meeting.

Nor do they shew themselves better vers'd in the Language of Convocation, by their vain distinction, between the Lower, and the Whole Lower House; which, were it of any weight, would diminish the Authority of your Lordships Proceedings, as well as Ours, and would hinder even the Thanks given to these Protesters, from being the Act of the Whole Upper House of Convocation.

The Unity of the Synod, is another new fangled Term, which, We are sure, they could not learn from the Records of Convocation. As far as the Unity of the Synod is consistent with the Constitution of an English Convocation, compos'd of two Houses, so far we shall be always ready and careful to maintain it: But, if any thing farther be intended by that Phrase, We shall be better able to judge, what Obligations we are under to preserve such Unity, when we do, as at present We do not, Understand it.

The Protesters appear as little acquainted with the Constitution of Other Churches, as with That of our Own, when they rashly affirm, That the Presbyters of this Church do enjoy greater Powers in Provincial Synods, than Presbyters have ever enjoy'd, in any Other Episcopal Church: For, to go no further than Our Neighbouring Church of Ireland, it is notorious, that the Presbyters thereof do, without any Offence to their Bishops, quietly enjoy those very Rights and Priviledges, which our Protesting Dissenters do here disclaim. And should We moreover Affirm, That, from the first Ages, Presbyters did Sit, give Voice, and Subscribe in Provincial Synods, as well

well as Bishops, We should be able to bring good Authorities for this Assertion, from Writers of this Church, who were the great Ornaments and Supports of your Lordships Order, and look'd upon the contrary Opinion, as Popish, and as such oppos'd it.

It were to be wish'd, that these Protesters, who pretend to have Observ'd the Transactions of former Convocations, had more carefully attended to what hath been done in This: They would then have known, that We only besought your Lordships to receive Our Form of an Address; and, therefore, could not have been so disingenuous, as to suggest, that We finally insisted upon Your Concurrence with it. Nor would they have ventur'd to scatter throughout their Paper, Insinuations of Danger to the Clergy, and to the State of Episcopacy, that is, as We conceive, to the Church of England; lest they should have fallen within the reach of your Lordships Censure, who have been pleas'd to declare, That, to insinuate the Church of England to be in Danger, can proceed from nothing but Prejudice, Interest, and Ambition.

These Complaints, and Observations, We lay before your Lordships, together with a Declaration of our Rights, which the late Impeachment of them, by our Protesting Brethren, hath extorted from Us; depending upon your Lordships Justice, that You will either order that Protestation, sign'd by some of Our Members, to be eras'd out of your Books, or suffer this Reply, together with the following Declaration, made by Our House, to be therewith entred, and transmitted to Posterity.

D

Whereas

Whereas a late PROTESTATION hath been sign'd by some of Our Members, arrainging the Just Rights and Proceedings of this House, We, the Deans, Arch-deacons, and Proctors, of Chapters, and Dioceses, in Convocation Assembled, that We may not involve Our Selves in the Guilt of betraying those Rights, with the Defence of which We are intrusted, do think Our Selves in Conscience oblig'd to declare,

THAT the Lower House is invested with a Right of Adjourning it self, and of holding its Sessions in the Intervals of the Adjournments made in the Upper House; and that it is not either immediately discontinued, or debarr'd from re-assembling in those Intervals, by the Authority of the Schedule, which hath not, till of late Years, been transmitted from the Arch-Bishop.

That the Lower Clergy are an House, (and have always been so styl'd in the Records of Convocation) as soon as they Assemble separately from the Bishops; and that they have a Right of placing their Prolocutor, when chosen, in the Chair, antecedently to his Confirmation.

That the House hath a Right to require the Attendance of its Members, and to accept Proxies; and that it is not the sole-Right of the Arch-Bishop, so to judge of the Causes of Absence, as to exclude all Cognizance thereof by the Lower House, or to punish Absenters without the Concurrence of the Synod.

That the House hath also a Right of assuming its own Actuary, who, by Virtue of such Appointment, officiates there, and hath Fees appropriated to Him, without any respect to a Deputation from the Register of the Upper House of Convocation.

That the Lower House hath also a Right of Dissenting finally from any thing propos'd to them, by the Upper House, for their Concurrence, without being oblig'd to specify the Reasons of such Dissent; and that the Exercise of that Right can be no instance of Undutifulness, or Disrespect to the Arch-Bishop, and Bishops.

To these Rights We now especially renew our Claim, because These, in particular, are disclaim'd by the Protesters; who pretend to be apprehensive of Dangers, that may arise from Our Exercise of them, but are not afraid to lodge an Absolute Authority elsewhere, which, if allow'd, and establish'd, may soon render Convocations (what We shall

shall hope, and labour, they may never become) Precarious and Useless Assemblies.

As to those ill Consequences, with which our present Claims are, in that Protestation, said to be attended; We are verily perswaded, and shall at all times be ready to prove, that they are not therewith justly chargeable; but are every ways Innocent, Reasonable, and Warranted by the Usage of Convocation. As such, We are firmly resolv'd by all lawful Means to maintain them to the Uttermost; and, in Testimony of this Resolution, We do, in our Own Names, and in the Names of Others, by whom We are duly authorized, subscribe this Declaration.

W. BINCKES, *Prolocutor.*

H. Aldrich, *Eccl. Christi Oxon, Dec.*

Guil. Grahme, *Eccl. Well. Decanus.*

Joh. Younger, *Decan. Sarisb.*

Hugo Powel, *Menev. Pracentor.*

Jo. Battely, *Archid. Cant.*

Edw. Drew, *Archid. Cornwall.*

Ad. Ottley, *Archid. Salop.*

Charles Alston, *Archid. Essex.*

Peter Birch, *Archid. Westm.*

Joh. Hutton, *Archid. Stowensis.*

Gul. Lancaster, *Archid. Middliss.*

Jon. Warly, *Archid. Colcestriae.*

Rad. Brideoak, *Archid. Winton.*

Tho. Sprat, *Archid. Roffen.*

Franc. Atterbury, *Archid. Totton.*

Jonath. Edwards, *Proc. Cap. Landaven.*

Tho. Lesley, *Proc. Eccl. Cath. Wellen.*

W. Delaune, *Proc. Eccl. Cath. Winton.*

Joh. Hammond, *Proc. Capit. Eccl. Christi Oxon.*

Car. Whiting, *Proc. Eccl. Cath. Hereford.*

Joh. Davies, *Proc. Eccl. St. Asaph.*

Lucas Beaulieu, *Proc. Cap. Eccl. Cath. Glouc.*

Ric. Redding, *Proc. Eccl. de Wolverhampton.*

Geo. Smalridge, *Proc. Cap. Lichen.*
Fr. Durant de Breval, *Proc. Cap. Roffen.*
Nic. Onley, *Proc. Capit. Westmon.*

H. Brydges, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Glouc.*
Joh. Coxe, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Glouc.*
Henr. Halsted, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Norw.*
Tho. Whincop, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Lond.*
Jo. Pelling, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Lond.*
Jo. Price, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Heref.*
W. Delaune, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Oxon.*
Maurice Vaughan, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Afaph.*
Jo. Cook, *Proc. Cleri Dioces. Cantuar.*
Ben. Barnet, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Roff.*
Anth. Sanders, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Cicestr.*
Guil. Needham, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Winton.*
W. Moor, *Proc. Cleri Dioc. Oxon.*
Tho. Coker, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Sarum.*
Rob. Pierce, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Sarum.*
Jo. Hickes, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Exon.*
Tho. Willis, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Landav.*
Jo. Stevenson, *Pro. Cl. Dioc. Bristol.*
W. Bernard, *Pro. Cl. Dioc. Winton.*
H. Naish, *Pro. Cl. Dioc. Bristol.*
Hen. Layng, *Pro. Cl. Dioc. Bathon & Well.*
Matth. Hutton, *Proc. Cleri Dioc. Petroburg.*
Sam. Rhodes, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Roffen.*

THO. ROFFEN, *Decan. Westm. per Proc. H. Aldrich.*
JON. EXON, *Archid. Exon, per Proc. Franc. Atterbury.*
Greg. Haskard, *Dec. Windsor & Wolv. per Proc. H. Aldrich.*
Henr. Ullock, *Dec. Roffen. per Proc. Tho. Sprat.*
W. Jane, *Dec. Glouc. per Proc. Geo. Smalridge.*
Tho. Sayer, *Archid. Surix, per Proc. G. Lancaster.*
Rob. Parsons, *Archid. Glouc. per Proc. G. Lancaster.*

Sam.

Sam. Hill, *Archid. Wellen. per Proc. G. Lancaster.*
 Tho. Fox, *Archid. Hereford, per Proc. Ad. Ottley.*
 Griffith Vaughan, *Archid. Salop, per Proc. G. Smalridge.*
 Rob. Burscough, *Archid. Barum, per Proc. Fran. Atter-*
bury.
 Joh. Shore, *Archid. Cardigan, per Proc. Guil. Needham.*
 Tho. Stainoe, *Archid. Maridun. per Proc. Guil. Needham.*
 Car. Yeate, *Archid. Wiltf. per Proc. Rob. Pierce.*
 Nath Ellifon, *Archid. Stafford, per Proc. G. Smalridge.*
 Tho. Wolsey, *Archid. Northton. per Proc. Matth. Hutton.*
 Ric. Davies, *Archid. Covent. per Proc. H. Brydges.*
 Rob. Foulk, *Proc. Capit. Eccl. Cath. Bang. per Proc. Mau-*
rice Vaughan.
 Carolus Elstub, *Proc. Cap. Cant. per Proc. Jo. Pelling.*
 Rob. Wynne, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Afaph, per Proc. Maur.*
Vaughan.
 Ja. Pool, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Heref. per Proc. H. Brydges.*
 Jon. Kimberley, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Litchf. & Cov. per Proc.*
J. Pelling.
 Jos. Waldron, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Bath & Well. per Proc. Hen.*
Laying.
 Matth. Mafon, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Petrob. per Joh. Hutton,*
Arch. Stow.
 Joh. Jenkyns, *Proc. Cl. Dioc. Landav. per Proc. T. Willis.*

The Reader will observe, that the *Subscriptions* of the *Ele-*
ctive Members to these Papers are, in proportion, most Nu-
 merous : An Observation, which (beside Other Thoughts that
 it may suggest) will afford him a sure Rule of judging, how the
 diffusive Body of the *Capitular* and *Rural* Clergy are dispos'd in
 this Controversy. As for Those, who *subscrib'd* in the *Names*
 of Other Members of the Lower House, by vertue of *Proxies*,
 lodg'd with them; it deserves to be known, that they did
 Most (if not All) of them consult their *Principals* on this oc-
 casion, and receive their Particular *Directions* to subscribe,
 e'er they made use of the General Powers, with which they
 were intrusted. Which was a way of Proceeding, that gave
 as great Weight and Authority to the Subscriptions of those
 who

who were *Absent*, as of those who were personally *Present*; and was very different from the Method taken to multiply Subscriptions by the *Protesters*.

I will add no Reflections on these Papers; let them speak for themselves. The Justness and Weight of the *Observations* made in the former, and the *Number*, and *Characters* of the *Subscribers* to *Both* of them, will, I doubt not, make due Impressions on the Minds of every indifferent Reader: Especially, if it be consider'd, that there was not One of the Venerable Persons concern'd in maintaining this Cause, but acted apparently against his own Ease and Interest, and struggled with so fierce an Opposition, *in* the Convocation, and *out* of it, with such potent Adversaries, and such foul Reproaches, as nothing could well have born him up against, but a strong Sense of Duty, and the Satisfaction of Conscience arising from a faithful Discharge of it. They are all Men, bred up in the profoundest Reverence for the Episcopal Character, and never suspected of making any unjustifiable Approaches to Those who are the known Enemies, and Underminers of the Order. And what, therefore, could tempt them to keep up such a Dispute, but their Zeal to preserve the *Constitution* of an *English Synod*, which they saw endanger'd, and were very apprehensive, that the taking of these Outworks was endeavour'd, in order to farther Attacks, and intended to facilitate Schemes, which could not be Executed, or Own'd, 'till those Persons were effectually subdu'd, who, by reason of their known Principles, and Characters, were most likely to stand in the way of them?

I hope, and verily believe, that there is not One of the Subscribing Members, who hath chang'd his Opinion in these Points: And They, who have not alter'd their Opinion, we may be satisfy'd, will not alter their Conduct, nor tamely yield to such Measures as may end in the Ruin of the Clergy's Rights and Liberties, and the Subversion of our Antient Constitution. Should that ever happen (as, I trust in God, it never will) it may be time to apply to our *Own* Age, what *Cicero* said of *His*, in an Excellent Passage, preserv'd by Saint *Austin* *. 'Tis a Comment on that famous Verse of *Ennius*,

* *De Ci.*
Dei, l. 2.
c. 21.

Moribus antiquis Res stat Romana, Virisque.

And, with a small Change of the word, *Respublica*, into *Ecclesia*, may then deservedly be spoken of us. *Nostra vero Aetas*, says he,

cum

cum Ecclesiam, sicut Picturam accepisset egregiam, sed jam evanescentem vetustate, non modo eam Coloribus iisdem, quibus fuerat, renovare neglexit, sed ne id quidem curavit, ut Formam saltem ejus & extrema tanquam Lineamenta servaret. Quid enim manet ex Antiquis Moribus, quibus Ille dixit stare Rem Romanam? Quos ita Oblivione obsoletos videmus, ut non modo non colantur, sed etiam ignorentur? Nam de Viris quid dicam? Mores enim ipsi interierunt Virorum penuriâ. Cujus tanti mali non modo reddenda nobis Ratio est, sed etiam, tanquam Reis Capitis, quodammodo dicenda Causa est: Nostri enim Vitiis, non Casu aliquo, Ecclesiam verbo retinemus, reapse vero jam pridem amisimus.

But these are Considerations at a Distance, and therefore I return to my present Argument.

On the same day [Feb. 1.] the Lower House pass'd also, and register'd a third Paper, in which the Charge of *Innovations*, so unjustly laid at their door, was in this manner retorted.

To the most Reverend the President, and the Right Reverend the Bishops, in Convocation Assembled.

Your Lordships have been pleas'd, in a solemn manner, to approve a Protestation, charging Us with divers Innovations.

It hath always been our Care, to guide Our selves by the Usage of Convocation, so far as We have been able to discover it from the remaining Journals. Had your Lordships taken the same Care, We should have had no occasion now to complain of Innovations introduc'd by your Lordships, in the following Particulars.

The open and avow'd declining to Execute the Clause *Præmunientes*, according to the Tenor of the Royal Writ, and the known Desires, and repeated Applications of the Clergy.

The insisting upon the Clergy's attendance in the Upper House, before they began each Session in their Own; and the altering, and adjusting, to that end, the antient Form of the Schedule of Continuation.

The insisting upon the Clergy's ending their Sessions below, upon Notice that the Upper House was risen.

The sending at one time a Bishop, and at another time the Register of the Upper-House, down to the Lower, there to execute the

the-Schedule, whilst the House was actually Sitting, and the Prolocutor in the Chair.

The sending down the Register of the Upper-House, to dismiss the Lower, by signifying to a private Member, that the Bishops were risen.

The Refusal of a Conference with the Lower-House, at their Proposal, and denial of their Right to propose Any.

The pronouncing the Lower House to be Irregular, and, under pretence of such Irregularity, refusing to hold any Correspondence with them.

The Refusing to receive Papers from the Lower-House, even when no such Irregularity was pretended.

The refusing to receive Messages of any kind, but from the Prolocutor.

The refusing to direct the choice of a Prolocutor, upon the decease of the former.

The Interruption of Business depending between the two Houses, by the frequent appointment of Commissaries, with Powers of Proroguing Only.

The ordering of Papers to be left upon the Table, without signifying the Reception of them.

The entring upon the Books of the Upper House, Replies to Papers brought up from the Lower, and expecting they should be taken as sufficient Answers, without communicating the same to the House, or even giving them notice of such Entry.

The unprecedented Length of Prorogations during the Session of Parliament.

The pretending to a Jurisdiction over the Lower House, and to a Power of Censuring them.

The Countenancing Irregular Protestations of Private Members, against the Rights and Proceedings of the House.

In all these Particulars, We conceive, that your Lordships have departed from the known Usage of Convocation, and have infring'd the Rights and Liberties, quietly enjoy'd by our Predecessors, in the Lower House. But we think Our Selves more especially oblig'd to declare against the pretence to such a sole Power in the President, over the whole Synod, as was altogether unknown to the first and purest Ages of Christianity, as tends to suppress the Rights of the Bishops of this Church, no less than those of the Presbyters, and is utterly Inconsistent with the Principles maintain'd by the most eminent Defenders of our Reformation, in their learned Writings against the Encroachments of Papacy.

Care

Care was taken to prevent the Lodging of these Papers with the *Bishops*, by a new *Adjournment* of their House for a *Month*, on the day, wherein they pass'd; and from thence, to farther times, by a *Commissary*, till the very End of that Convocation. The only way, therefore, left of communicating them to their Lordships, was, by communicating them to the World; which I confess my self to do, not without Regret, tho' their Advocate, by his printed Slanders, hath made such a Method, not only Justifiable, but Necessary. The yearly Collectors of History, have implicitly transcrib'd some of his Accounts into their *Annals*, and transmitted them to Posterity, as far at least as such Pens can do it. The *Observer*, and the rest of that Tribe, have eccho'd back his Reproaches, in their weekly Prints: Even the modest and moderate Mr. *Hoadly*, in such Company, and after such Examples, hath ventur'd to treat the Body of the Establish'd Clergy, with Language more disdainful and reviling, than it would have become him to have us'd towards his *Presbyterian* Antagonist, under any provocation; charging them with *Rebellion* * in the Church, whilst he himself is preaching it up in the State. And shall it not be lawful for the Clergy to inform the World, how little Ground there is for these Aspersions? Can it be expected, that They, who have so much to say for themselves, should still continue silent?

* See his Preface to 1st Edit. of the Def. of his Sermon.

In the entrance of this Dispute about Adjournments, the earliest Attack from the Press, was made by a Partisan of the Upper House, in *A Letter to a Friend in the Country, concerning the Proceedings of the present Convocation*. After this Signal given, the Engagement, consequent upon it, was unavoidable.

When the Controversie had for some time slept on both sides, it was again awaken'd, by an *Account of Proceedings in Convocation, relating to the Danger of the Church, &c.* Who can blame those that only follow the Patterns which are thus set to them? If the Press may be employ'd to Defame the Clergy, it may also, and must be made use of to Vindicate them. And, therefore, to proceed.

The Cause of the Lower House had been justify'd in Print, with great Variety and Strength of Argument. One way still remain'd, of evincing the Reasonableness of their Claims; and that was by the *Parallel Customs and Usages* of the Lower House of Convocation in Ireland. And therefore, on Feb. 4. it was propos'd, "That the House would receive the Information of two Eminent Members of the Convocation in Ireland,

E

" who

“ who were at hand, and ready to give their Testimonies of
 “ several Rights and Proceedings of the Lower House, in the
 “ Convocation there, viz. Mr. Percivale, Archdeacon of
 “ Cashel, and Mr. Higgins, Proctor for the Diocess of Os-
 “ sory.

They came in, and gave Answer, *vivâ voce*, to divers Questions propos'd. These Accounts they reduc'd afterwards into writing, and sign'd; and the Paper, so sign'd, was read by One of them in the House, Feb. 19. and order'd to be Registered. From the Original it self, I have transcrib'd the following Copy of it.

WE, whose Names are under-written, Members of the Lower House of Convocation, in Ireland, being desired by our Brethren, of the Lower House of Convocation in England, to give them an Account, in their House, of several Rights, and Usages enjoy'd, and practis'd by that House, of which We are Members, did accordingly (on Monday, the 4th of Feb. 1702.) give our Answers to several Questions proposed to Us by the Prolocutor; and being farther requested to draw up the Substance of what We then deliver'd, do now, in Compliance with their Desires, give into the said House this following Account, to be in such manner by them made use of, as they in their Wisdom shall think most fit.

The Members of the Lower House of this present Convocation in Ireland were Summon'd, Elected, and Return'd, by Virtue of the Præmunientes Clause, in the Bishops Parliamentary Writs; which Clause was executed by all the Bishops throughout the Kingdom: But the Clergy defer'd the Electing of a Prolocutor, and the Proceeding to Business, until the Reception of the Provincial Writs by the several Arch-Bishops.

After the said Reception of the Provincial Writs, the Members met, in order to chuse a Prolocutor, in St. Patrick's Church, Dublin; and were there directed by the Bishops to proceed to the Choice: They thereupon withdrew into the Chapter-House of the said Church, where the Dean of St. Patrick's took the Chair, claiming it as his Right, to preside in that place during the Election; but the Members would by no means allow his Claim, nor did they proceed to the Election 'till He first quitted the Chair.

He did then quit it, and the Members elected him to preside, and assumed a Publick Notary to make a Notarial Act of the Election.

As soon as the Prolocutor was chosen, the Dean of St. Patrick's, having declar'd the Election, left the Chair: And then the Prolocutor, having put on his Doctor's Hood, was conducted into it by two of the Members.

The Prolocutor being in the Chair, the House immediately chose the same Person to be their Actuary, whom they had before assum'd as a Publick Notary. All this was done, before the Confirmation of the Prolocutor by the Bishops.

The Returns of all Members were made to the several Arch-Bishops, and a List of the Members of the Lower House was transmitted to the Lower House from the Upper.

A standing Committee of Elections was, at the beginning of the Convocation, appointed to judge of Elections, if any should be Controverted; but none were. The aforesaid Committee, and all other Committees of the Lower House, were appointed by the sole Authority of that House.

Calls of the House were frequent, and always appointed by the House it self, and all Members were then order'd to appear in their several Places: And when any, upon such Call, were absent, and no satisfactory Account was given of their Absence, the Prolocutor, or the Actuary, was order'd by the House to signify to such Members, that the House demanded their Attendance. Upon such Signification of the Commands of the House, the Members do either appear Personally, or send Letters of Excuse to the Prolocutor; of which Excuse the House judges, and either allows, or disallows it, as they see Cause.

When such Excuse has been disallow'd by the House, and the Members have still neglected to appear, the Names of such Members, contumaciously absent, have been laid before the Bishops. And when any of the said Members have afterwards sent such Excuses, as the House hath allow'd, that Allowance has been signified to the Bishop.

No Member does ever presume to depart from the Synod, without asking leave of the House; and no Application (that We know of) has ever been made to the Bishops for their Leave, 'till that of the Lower House was first obtain'd. But when we have procured the Leave of our Own House, we took upon our selves always oblig'd to crave That of their Lordships also, they having a just Right to our Attendance on them in Synod.

In case of a Vacancy by the Death, or Promotion of a Proctor, or by one Proctor's being chosen for two Places, and declaring for which of the two He will serve; the Lower House signifies such Vacancy to the Upper House, praying their Lordships that it may be supply'd: And thereupon a Mandate issues from the Bishop of the Diocese, in which such Vacancies happen, for the Election of a new Member; which when made, and return'd, is notified to the Prolocutor, by the Upper House; and upon his reporting it to the Lower, the Person elected is by two Members introduced into the House, and there takes his Place.

When the Upper and Lower House have concurrent Sessions, the Lower House always continues sitting, 'till they have Notice that the Upper House is adjourn'd; which Notice was at first brought by the Bishop's Actuary, by word of Mouth; but, to avoid Mistakes, hath, at the Desire of the Lower House, since been brought by him in Writing.

The Form in which this Notice is given, is various; It is said sometimes, that the President, Arch-Bishops and Bishops; sometimes that the Arch-Bishops and Bishops have adjourn'd this Convocation, or the Convocation to such, or such a Time, and Place.

The Lower House do not, upon such Notice, ever break up their Session, but always proceed in their Business, 'till a Motion is made by some Member of the House for Adjourning; which Motion, by a standing Order of the House, can never (in a Morning-Session) be made without leave of the House, before One a Clock.

The Prolocutor, before He puts the Question of Adjournment, reports to the House what Time the Bishops have adjourn'd to, and then the Lower House adjourns it self to that Time, or to any Time short of that, by the Authority, and Consent of the House: Which Power of the Lower House to adjourn it self, was own'd, and allow'd by the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, then in Dublin, in their Answer to some Queries sent to them by the Right Honourable the Earl of Nottingham, then Principal Secretary of State in England, before the Calling of this Convocation.

The Lower House doth very frequently hold Intermediate Sessions, which they look upon to be as regular, as those which are concurrent with the Sessions of the Bishops, and do in their Books style them Sessions, and number them among Others, without any Discrimination.

All Messages sent from the Lower House to the Upper, are reduced into Writing, and sign'd by the Prolocutor, and by him read in the Upper.

The Lower House doth admit Members, who dissent from the Resolutions of the House, to enter upon their Books a Protestation against such Resolutions, either with Reasons, or without : But the House never permits any thing to be enter'd, which reflects on the Honour of the House.

We never heard of any Protestation made in the Upper House by Members of the Lower.

Such Papers, as have been by the Prolocutor offer'd to the Bishops, have been by their Lordships constantly received.

The Sessions of the Upper House, tho' less frequent than those of the Lower, are yet so order'd by their Lordships, that Business hath never been interrupted, for want of Synodical Meetings.

We do, in the last Place, declare our deepest and most grateful Sense of the Paternal Tenderness of our Arch-Bishops, and Bishops, for the Lower Clergy, very observable in their Lordships great Zeal, and Readiness to concur with them on all Occasions, in the Recovery and Preservation of their Rights, and in every other good Work : And are heartily thankful to Almighty God, that We do enjoy all these several Rights and Priviledges, without the least Struggle, Contest, or Difference with their Graces, and Lordships : And do bless him for the perfect Unity and Harmony between both Houses ; which being so very conspicuous, We look upon to be a great Security to that National Church, a great Discouragement to her profest Enemies, and a great Vexation and Disappointment to the more close and dangerous Underminers of her Apostolick and Orthodox Constitution.

W. Percivale, Archdeacon of Cashel.

Fran. Higgins, Proctor for the Diocess of Ossory.

Those

Those, who have not been at leisure, or inclin'd to examine into the true State of the Dispute, and to Balance the Arguments urg'd on both Sides of it, may satisfie themselves, where the Truth lies, from the foregoing Paper; which contains an irresistible Proof, that the Pretensions of the *English Lower-House* were just and Well-founded. For the *Irish Convocation*, as well as *Parliament*, is known to have been entirely Form'd on the Model of that of *England*. All their Customs and Usages were deriv'd from hence; and must therefore be look'd upon, as a good Evidence of what belongs to us here, in such controverted Cases, as cannot now so perfectly be clear'd by the few *Lower-House Books* that surviv'd the great Fire of *London*.

Let it not be said, that the *Irish Convocation* is compos'd of *four Provinces*, and doth therefore differ in its Constitution from *Ours*: For that difference is of no moment in the present Debate; since, whatever Rights and Privileges belong to the Clergy of *four Provinces*, assembled in Synod, with regard to the *four Metropolitans* and Bishops of those Provinces, belong equally to the Clergy of any *single Province*, with regard to the Metropolitan and Bishops of *that Province*. And, therefore, if the *One* can *Adjourn themselves*, or hold *Intermediate Sessions*, &c. so can the *Other*. This is manifest even from our own Practice here in *England*; where, when the *two Provinces* meet together, (as they have frequently done, since the time of *H. 8.* *) the very same Methods of Proceeding, and Adjourning, do, in every respect, obtain, as are practis'd in the separate Synod of the Province of *Canterbury*: The Primate of all *England* then presides in the United Synod *here*, as the Primate of all *Ireland* does *there*; nor is *his* Power above, or the Rights of the Clergy below, a whit diminish'd, or enlarg'd, by the Union, or Separation of these two Assemblies.

* 1540,
1555,
1562,
&c.
1623,
1661.

I would willingly preclude all possible Cavils, by which the Authority of this pregnant Proof may, in any one Branch of it, be weakned, or eluded; and therefore shall, e'er I proceed, observe to the Reader, that the Formality's of *declaring the Adjournments* of Convocation in *England*, and *Ireland*, are somewhat different. For here the way is, after the Adjournment made by the *Archbishop* and *Bishops* in the Upper-House, and in this, or the like manner, entred in their Acts, [*Dom. Archiepiscopus, cum Consensu Fratrum — continuavit — presentem Convocationem — usque ad, &c.*] to draw up an Instrument, or *Schedule* of Adjournment, which is Sign'd by the *Archbishop*, and runs

runs in his Name only, and, by the *Transmission* of This, to notify that Adjournment to the Lower-Clergy: Whereas in *Ireland* no such Instrument, or *Schedule* obtains; but an *Act* only is enter'd of every *Adjournment*, made by the Common Consent of the *Archbishops* and *Bishops*, and an Account of it in writing is sent down by the *Actuary* of that House. But this makes no manner of difference, as to the Archbishop's Power of Adjourning; which continues the same, whether he declare the Adjournment by *Word of Mouth* only, or in *Writing*; with a *Schedule*, or *without* one: As the *Preroguing* Power of the *Crown* is the same, whether it be exerted by a *Writ* under the *Great Seal*, or *vivâ voce* by the *Prince*, then present in *Parliament*. In both Kingdoms the way equally is, first, to make the *Adjournment* in the *Upper-House*, by a *Vote* of that *House*, entered in the *Acts* of it; and then to notify that Adjournment to the Lower. This *Notification* is made here in *England*, by a *Schedule*, drawn up in the Archbishop's Name, and *Sign'd* by him; in *Ireland* it is not. But such a *Schedule*, as it mentions not, so neither doth it affect the Right which the Upper, or which either House hath to concur in such Adjournments; and which appears only from the *Act-Books* of those Houses. And, therefore, the Use of the *Schedule*, here in *England*, doth not lay the *English* Lower-House under any *peculiar* Disadvantages in the Point of Adjourning; nor in the least weaken the force of the Argument, advanc'd in their behalf, from the Right of the Lower-House of Convocation in *Ireland*.

To add yet farther Weight and Strength to this Testimony, it happened, that, when the *Irish* Convocation met afterwards, in 1707. a Complaint was made in the Lower House of the Account given by their two Members here in *England*. Upon which a Copy of it was produced, and read to the House by Mr. Archdeacon *Percival*, and it was *Resolv'd*, Paragraph by Paragraph, to be a *just and true Representation of the Proceedings of that House*. The *Resolutions* of this kind were near twenty in number; to none of which there were above four or five, and to most of them but one Negative given in that numerous Assembly; which, by this means, ratify'd the *Representation* their Members had made, and gave it an unquestionable Authority. Men that are well-back'd, may hope to elude the most convincing Proofs by false Colours and Cavils: But this Evidence must be look'd upon as Decisive by all those who are Impartial; and will, I am persuaded, prove a Milstone on the Neck of that Cause, which

which hath hitherto been supported by Interest and Power, against clear Right and Reason. And these, as they always ought, so I have no manner of doubt, but that they, sometime or other, will prevail. The Seed is sown, [*Convocations* are restor'd, their *Rights*, *Powers*, and *Priviledges* understood] and the Harvest, tho' it may be retarded a while by ill Seasons, will assuredly follow.

I remember some excellent Words in a *Greek* Writer, which are very applicable to this Purpose, and deserve to be Engraven in the Hearts of all Asserters, and Lovers of *Truth*. For which Reason, and because they may serve to relieve the Reader (already tir'd, I fear, with such dry and unpleasing Relations) I shall give them, unsuitable as they may seem, a Place in these Papers; adding the Original it self (which no Version can equal) in the Margin.

" I am of Opinion, says he, that Nature hath given a certain Divinity to *Truth*, and endu'd it with a Power which is

Καί μοι δοκεῖ μεγίστω Θεὸν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἢ φύσιν ἀποδείξαι τὴν Ἀλήθειαν, καὶ μεγίστω αὐτῇ προσθεῖναι δυνάμιν πάντων γέν' αὐτῇ καταγωνιζομένων, ἐνίοτε καὶ πασῶν τῶν πιθανολήτων καὶ τῶν ψεύδους καταπομένων, ἐκ οἷο' ὅπως, αὕτη δὲ αὐτῆς εἰς τὰς ψυχὰς εἰσδύεται καὶ ἀνθρώπων. Καί ποτε μὲν ἀσάχημα δέκνυσσι τὴν αὐτῆς δυνάμιν, ποτὲ δὲ, πολλῶν χερόντων ἐπσκοπισθεῖσα, λέγει αὕτη δὲ αὐτῆς ἐπικρατεῖ, καὶ καταγωνίζεται τὸ ψεῦδος. Polyb. Eclog. lib. 24.

" irresistible: So that, tho' never
" so many conspire against it,
" and Falshood, disguis'd under
" various Shews of Probability,
" oppose its entrance into Mens
" Minds; yet it self, of it self,
" doth, I know not how, find a
" passage into them. And some-
" times it manifests this Power,
" at the first: At other times,

" having been long obscur'd, it breaks out at last, and by its
" native Force and Brightness chases away Falshood.

This Authentick Account of things in *Ireland*, as it establishes our *Claims* of *Right*, so it removes all suspicion of the ill *Consequences* with which those *Claims* have been loaded. For the most popular and prevailing Objection against them was, that they were inconsistent with the due subordination of Presbyters to Bishops, and tended to introduce such a Levelling *Parity*, as must end in Disorder and Confusion. A vain and groundless Pretence, effectually confuted by a Reflexion on the present State of Affairs in *Ireland*! where all these Rights and Priviledges, which are thought here so Mischievous and Dangerous, are enjoy'd by the Lower Clergy, without the least Diminution

nution of that filial Respect and Duty which they owe to their Superiors. The Bishops of *Ireland* are so far from feeling, or fearing any Consequences of this kind, that by their *Means* chiefly, as well as with their entire *Approbation*, the Lower Clergy have been put into Possession of these Rights: And the Event of this Wise and Fatherly Conduct hath been, that they have met with all the returns of Reverence and Obedience that could possibly be pay'd to them. Let my Lords the Bishops, here in *England*, but venture to try the same Methods, and any one may venture to promise, that they shall find the same Success. But if this End be not aim'd at, or regarded; If a Resolution be taken, for Reasons not difficult to be guess'd at, either to divide us among our selves, or to subdue us into an implicate dependance; in vain are all our Pleas, Arguments, and Applications: the Resolution taken, will be pursued, 'till God, in his Mercy, shall be pleas'd to give a Check to it, and turn the Course of things into a different Channel. And to that Time we must patiently refer our selves.

In the *Preface* to these Papers I have shewn, that One way, which the Clergy took towards *Peace*, was, by setting forward *Business* of a *Publick* Nature and Consequence. This they endeavour'd from the very time that the Rupture happen'd; nor did the Repulses, they met with on this Head, discourage them from renewing the Attempt. Proposals, therefore, were made by them in every Convocation; such, as if they had found a Reception suitable to the honest Zeal with which they were fram'd, might have had very good and lasting Effects. One Instance of this kind the Lower-House *Acts* of Feb. 19. 170 $\frac{1}{2}$. furnish me with: for, then, the following Paper was agreed upon, and entred in their Journals.

THE Lower-House of Convocation think, it becomes them to remind your Lordships of a Motion formerly made by them, concerning a Bill for the more Easie and speedy Recovery of Church-Rates, and to pray your Lordships, that, till such a Bill can be obtain'd, your Lordships would use your best Endeavours towards preventing those Dilatory and Expensive Methods of Proceeding in Courts Ecclesiastical, which have been so much complain'd of on that occasion.

They have likewise taken into Consideration, the Representation of Grievances formerly offer'd to your Lordships, together with the Speech of your Grace relating thereunto; and are much concern'd to find, that That Representation, tho' containing sundry Proposals of great Importance, as They conceive, towards Reviving the Discipline of the Church, by a due Execution of the Canons already in force, hath not yet had its desired effect.

In the mean time, they think it proper to observe to your Lordships, That, notwithstanding Her Majesty's pious Care, to repress and restrain the Great Enormities of the Stage (for which the then Lower-House mov'd your Lordships, without success, that the humble Thanks of the Convocation might be given to her Majesty) yet they find still great reason to complain of the Immorality and Profaneness of the Stage; of which there is a fresh and flagrant Instance, in a Profane Prologue, lately spoken at the Opening of the New Theatre in the Hay-market, and since Printed and Publish'd.

They do also look upon themselves, as in Duty bound, to complain to your Lordships, of the daring Insults upon the Clergy, the University's, and the Constitution it self, continually made by Licitious Writers, particularly by the Authors of the Review, and Observer; and to pray your Lordships Concurrence, in an humble Representation to Her Majesty, of this great Grievance, and of the Mischiefs which must redound to our Holy Church and Religion, if such open Assaults upon our Order, upon the Places of our Education, and upon our Legal Establishment, shall continue to be made with Impunity.

As likewise to inform your Lordships, of the Scandal given to all good Christians, by an Assembly of Sectaries, under the Name of Unitarians, publickly held in the City of London; the Teacher whereof is notoriously known to have been convicted of denying the Divinity of our Blessed Saviour.

And moreover to acquaint your Lordships, with the late lewd and profane Writings of Edmund Hickeringill, Rector of St. Mary's, Colchester; which have brought so great Scandal upon our Church, and Holy Order. And they must at the same time declare their grateful Sense of the Pastoral Vigilance, and Exemplary Zeal, of the Right Honourable and Right Reverend the present Lord Bishop of London, of which he hath given constant Proofs, in endeavouring to bring such Offenders to condign Punishment; but hath met with insuperable Difficulties therein; the Removal of which, by such Methods as may be effectual, doth, in the Opinion of this House, highly deserve the mature Consideration of this Provincial Synod.

Nor can they omit taking notice of the present Endeavours of several Reform'd Churches, to accommodate themselves to our Liturgy and Constitution, mention'd in the late Form of an Address sent down by your Lordships.

They are very desirous of knowing your Lordships Opinion, in what Manner it may be proper for this Convocation, with Her Majesty's Leave and Encouragement, to express their great Satisfaction to find in them such good Dispositions, and Their readiness to maintain and cherish such a Fraternal Correspondence with them, as may strengthen the Interest of the Reformed Religion, against the Common Enemy.

They do farther Propose to your Lordships Consideration, what fit Methods may (with the same Leave and Encouragement) be taken by this Synod, for Inviting and Inducing the Pastors of the French-Protestant Churches among us, to use their best Endeavours with their People, for an Universal Reception of our Liturgy; which hath had the Approbation of their most Eminent Divines, hath been long us'd in several of their Congregations within this Kingdom, and, by Her Majesty's Special Influence, hath been lately introduc'd into the French Congregation held in the Chappel near Her Royal Palace.

They do, in the last place, earnestly desire your Lordships, that some Synodical Notice may be taken of the Dishonour done to the Church, by a Sermon preach'd by Mr. Benjamin Hoadly, at St. Lawrence Jewry, Sept. 29. 1705. Containing Positions contrary to the Doctrine of the Church, expressed in the first and second Parts of the Homily against Disobedience, or wilful Rebellion.

These several Heads of Information and Complaint, they are ready to make good by special Proofs, whenever your Lordships shall be pleas'd to demand them.

I shall add to this the Copy of a *Vote*, relating to a Book then newly Publish'd, for which the Author deserv'd the Thanks, not of the English Clergy alone, but of all Christian Churches.

Feb. 9. 1706. "Order'd, That the Thanks of this House be given
"to Mr. Wall, Vicar of Shoreham, in Kent, for the Learned
"and Excellent Book he hath lately written concerning *Infant*
"*Baptism*; and that * Dr. B. and Mr. R. do acquaint him with
"the same.

*The two
Proctors
for the
Diocess.

Thus far I have found leisure to inform the World of what pass'd in Convocation from *Oct. 25.* till *March 1. 1705.* when a new Scene open'd ; an Account of which doth not lie within the compass of my present Design.

I had Thoughts of adding some Reflections on the Rise, Progress, and Tendency of this unhappy Dispute, and of the several Methods which at different Times, for various Ends, have been made use of, either to encourage, or stifle it. Such a View of Things would be very Instructive ; but, I think, the Season is not ripe for it. And, therefore, let thus much suffice. Perhaps, what is now offer'd to the Publick, may be of some use to open those Eyes which have been hitherto shut to all Representations of this kind, and those Ears that have been deaf to all the just Complaints of the Clergy ; and may give the sincere Friends of our Constitution, such a Conviction of the true Grounds and fatal Consequences of our present Struggles, as may induce them to do, what in them lies, toward closing the Wounds, that have too long been kept open and bleeding. In hopes of this much-wish'd for effect, I take leave of the Reader, in the Words of meek and good Mr. *Hooker.*

The same Men (says he) who, in heat of Contention, do hardly either speak, or give Ear to Reason, being, after sharp and bitter Conflicts, retir'd to a calm remembrance of all their former Proceedings ; the Causes that brought them into Quarrel ; the Course which their striving Affections have follow'd, and the Issue whereunto they are come ; may peradventure, as troubled Waters, in small time, of their own accord, by certain easie degrees, settle themselves again ; and so recover that clearness of well-advised Judgment, whereby they shall stand at the length indifferent, both to yield and admit any reasonable satisfaction, where before they could not endure, with patience, to be gainsay'd. Neither will I despair of the like success in these unpleasant Controversies, touching Ecclesiastical Polity ; the time of Silence which both parts have taken willingly to breath, seeming now as it were a Pledge of all Mens quiet Contentment, to hear with more indifferency, the Weightiest and last Remains of that Cause, which perhaps hath hitherto been handled not without some mixture of human Passion and Infirmary.

THE
BOOKSELLER
TO THE
READER.

“ I Have often heard it wish’d, that a Compleat Account
“ were given of All the Books and Papers, printed on
“ either Side, in the Dispute about *The Rights, Powers,*
“ *and Priviledges of an English Convocation.* I have endeavour’d
“ to procure such an Account, and take the Liberty here to
“ subjoin it.

** A Letter to a *Convocation-Man*, concerning the *Rights, Powers,* and *Priviledges* of that Body, 4to, 1697.

† The *Authority of Christian Princes*, over their *Ecclesiastical Synods*, asserted, with particular respect to the *Convocations* of the Clergy of the Realm and Church of *England*, occasion’d by a late Pamphlet, Intituled, *A Letter to a Convocation-Man*, &c. By *William Wake*, D. D. &c. 8vo, 1697.

† A Letter to a *Member of Parliament*, occasion’d by a Letter to a *Convocation-Man*, concerning the *Rights, Powers,* and *Priviledges* of that Body, &c. 4to, 1697.

* *Municipium Ecclesiasticum*; Or, The *Rights, Liberties,* and *Authorities* of the Christian Church asserted, against all *Oppressive Doctrines* and *Constitutions*, occasion’d by *Dr. Wake’s* Book, &c. 8vo, 1697.

† An

† An *Appeal* to all the True Members of the Church of England, in behalf of the King's Ecclesiastical Supremacy, &c. By W. Wake, D. D. &c. 8vo, 1698.

* The Rights of the Christian Church further defended, in answer to the *Appeal* of Dr. Wake, by Sam. Hill, Rector of Kilmington, 8vo, 1698.

† A Brief *Enquiry* into the Ground, Authority, and Rights of Ecclesiastical Synods, upon the Principles of Scripture and Right Reason. Occasion'd by a late Book, Intitul'd, *Municipium Ecclesiasticum*, 8vo, 1699.

† Some Thoughts on a Convocation, and the Notion of Divine Right, &c. 4to, 1699.

* The Rights, Powers, and Privileges of an English Convocation, stated and vindicated, in Answer to a late Book of Dr. Wake's, &c. By Francis Atterbury, &c. 8vo, 1700. S.

† Reflections on a Book, Intitul'd, [The Rights, Powers, and Privileges of an English Convocation, stated and vindicated.] By Gilbert, Lord Bishop of Sarum, 4to, 1700. S. in 15 A. 14.

* The Rights, Liberties, and Authorities of the Christian Church asserted, against all Oppressive Doctrines and Constitutions. To which is added, A Justification of *Municipium Ecclesiasticum*, &c. 8vo, 1701.

† Ecclesiastical Synods, and Parliamentary Convocations of the Church of England, Historically stated, and justly vindicated from the Misrepresentation of Mr. Atterbury, by White Kennet, D. D. Part I. 8vo, 1701. S. bound.

† An Occasional Letter, on the Subject of English Convocations, by the Author of Ecclesiastical Synods and Parliamentary Convocations in the Church of England, 8vo, 1701. S. in *serage*.

† Mr. Atterbury's Arguments for the Rights, Powers, and Privileges of an English Convocation, consider'd, 4to, 1701. S. in *Vol.*

* Some Remarks on the Temper of the late Writers about Convocations, particularly, Dr. Wake, Dr. Kennet, and the Author of Mr. A.'s Principles, &c. 4to, 1701. S. in *book*.

† A Letter to a Friend in the Country, concerning the Proceedings of this present Convocation, 4to, 1701. 15 A. 15.

** The Power of the Lower House of Convocation to adjourn it self, vindicated from the Misrepresentations of a late Paper, Intitul'd, A Letter to a Friend in the Country, concerning the Proceedings of the present Convocation, 4to, 1701. S. in *the Volume*.

* A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Lower House of Convocation, relating to the Prorogations and Adjournments, &c. 4to, 1701. S. *Convocation Papers*. † The

† The Right of the Arch-Bishop to continue, or prorogue the Whole Convocation, asserted in a Second Letter, by way of Reply to a Pamphlet, Intitul'd, The Power of the Lower House of Convocation to adjourn it self, &c. And also to a late Book, Intitul'd, A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Lower House of Convocation, &c. 4to, 1701. *S. Convocation papers.*

† A Vindication of the Proceedings of some Members of the Lower House, with relation to the Arch-Bishop's Prorogation of it, May 8. 1701. 4to, 1701. 15 A. 20.

** A Letter to a Clergy-Man in the Country, concerning the Choice of Members, and the Execution of the Parliament-Writ for the Ensuing Convocation, 4to, Nov. 17. 1701.

** A Second Letter to a Clergy-Man in the Country, about the Execution of the Parliament-Writ for the Ensuing Convocation, 4to, Dec. 10. 1701.

† The Case of the *Pramunientes*, consider'd, in Answer to the Letter concerning the Choice of Members, and the Execution of the Parliament-Writ, for the Ensuing Convocation, 4to, 1701. *See this Volume. W. in 1 A.*

† The Late Pretence of a Constant Practise to enter the Parliament, as well as Provincial-Writ, in the Front of the Acts of every Synod, consider'd, in a Letter to the Author of that Assertion, &c. 4to, Dec. 11. 1701. 15 A. 13.

† The Late Pretence of a Constant Practise to enter the Parliament, as well as Provincial-Writ, in the Front of the Acts of every Synod, further consider'd, and disprov'd, in a Second Letter, &c. 4to, Dec. 16. 1701. 15 A. 17.

** A Third Letter to a Clergy-Man in the Country, concerning the choice of Members, and the Execution of the Parliament-Writ, &c. in defence of the Two former, 4to, Jan. 8. 1701. 15 A. 15.

* A Letter to a Clergy-Man in the City, concerning the Instructions given to the Proctors for the Diocess of Worcester, 4to, Jan. 26. 1701.

** A Faithful Account of some Transactions in the three last Sessions of the present Convocation, 4to, Feb. 14. 1701. Numb. I.

* A Faithful Account of what pass'd in Convocation, 4to, Feb. 19. Numb. II.

† A True Copy of the Arch-Bishop's Speech in Jerusalem-Chamber, on Thursday, Feb. 19. 1701. 4to, 1701. *S. 1 A. 27.*

* A Continuation of the Faithful Account of what pass'd in Convocation, 4to, March 7. 1701. Numb. III. * An

*vs. from some MS. Except lately taken vs. This is added to
Cats of y^e Remuneration considered.*

† *An Answer to a Third Letter to a Clergy-man in the Country ; in Defence of the Entry of the parliament-Writ, &c. 4to, March 6. 1701. S.*

* *An Expedient propos'd, or the Occasions of the late Controversie in Convocation consider'd, and a Method of Adjournment pointed out, consistent with the Claims of both Houses, 4to, 1701. S. in this Volume.*

† *A Letter from a Scotch Presbyterian, touching the English Convocation, 4to, June 30. 1701.*

† *History of the Convocation which met, Feb. 6. 1700. 4to, 1702. S. Convocatⁿ-papers.*

* *The Narrative of the Lower House Vindicated from the Exceptions of a Letter, Intituled, The Right of the Archbishop to Continue or Prorogue the whole Convocation, 4to, 1702. S.*

* *Vindication of the Narrative continu'd, 4to, 1702. S.*

† *The Pretended Expedient ; in a Letter to the Author ; shewing that Title to be contrary to the Book, especially with relation to the Right of an Episcopal Church, 4to, 1702. 1A 26.*

† *Reflections upon a late Paper, Intituled, An Expedient propos'd ; shewing the unreasonableness thereof, &c. 4to, 1702.*

† *A Reconciling Letter upon the late Differences, about Convocational Rights and Proceedings, 4to. 1702. S. in this Volume. 15A 19.*

† *A Letter from the Borders of Scotland, concerning somewhat of Agreement between a Scotch General Assembly, and an English Provincial Convocation. By an Episcopal Divine, Sept. 21. 1702. 4to. Letter A.*

† *The Parallel continu'd, between a Presbyterian Assembly, and the New Model of an English Provincial Synod, &c. 4to, Dec. 9. 1702. Letter B.*

*** *The Case of the Schedule stated, wherein an Account is given of the Rise and Design of that Instrument, and of the Influence it hath on the Adjournments of the Lower-House of Convocation ; and all the Authorities urg'd in behalf of the Archbishop's Sole Power to prorogue the whole Convocation, are occasionally examin'd, 4to, 1702. S. Convocatⁿ-papers.*

† *The Present State of Convocation ; in a Letter, giving a full Relation of Proceedings in several of the late Sessions, from Jan. 28. to Feb. 19. 4to, 1702. S. in this Volume.*

† *The Schedule Review'd, or the Right of the Archbishop to Continue or Prorogue the whole Convocation, clear'd from the Exceptions of a late Vindication of the Narrative of the Lower-House ; and of a Book, Entitul'd, The Case of the Schedule Stated, 4to, 1702. 15A 10.*

† *Synodus*

† *Synodus Anglicana*, or the Constitution and Proceedings of an English Convocation, shewn from the Acts and Registers thereof, to be agreeable to the Principles of an Episcopal Church, 8vo, 1702. S

† A History of the English Councils and Convocations, and of the Clergy's Sitting in Parliament. In which is also comprehended, the History of Parliaments. With an Account of our English Laws. By Humphry Hody, D. D. 8vo. 1702.

** The Parliamentary Original and Rights of the Lower-House of Convocation clear'd, and the Evidences of its Separation from the Upper-House produc'd on several Heads; particularly, in the point of making *Separate Applications* (as a distinct Body of Men) to other Bodies, or Persons, in pursuance of an Argument for the Power of the Lower-House to adjourn it self, &c. 4to, 1702.

† A Short State of some present Questions in Convocation, particularly, of the Right to Continue, or Prorogue, by way of Commentary on the Schedule of Continuation, 4to, 1703. S. in this Volume. 14 A. 3.

* A Summary Defence of the Lower-House of Convocation, particularly, concerning Adjournments; in Answer to a Pamphlet, entituled, *A Short State of some present Questions in Convocation*, &c. by way of Commentary on the Schedule, 4to, 1703. S. 3 A. 28.

† The pretended Independence of the Lower-House upon the Upper, a Groundless Notion, &c. being a Vindication of *Synodus Anglicana*, and the Schedule Review'd; together with the Integrity of their Author, from the Censures and Reflections of a late Pamphlet, entitul'd, *The Parliamentary Original and Rights of the Lower-House*, &c. 4to, 1703. S. in this Volume. 7 15 A. 12.

* A Representation made by the Lower House of Convocation to the Archbishop and Bishops, 4to, 1703. S. in this Volume.

** Letter from a Clergy-man in Ireland, to a Convocation-man in England, 4to, Aug. 9. 1703.

† The Marks of a Defenceless Cause, in the Proceedings and Writings of the Lower House of Convocation; particularly in their third and last System of Principles, invented by the Vindicator of their Narrative, and repeated in a late Pamphlet, entitul'd, *A Summary Defence of the Lower House*, 4to, 1703.

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+ *The State of the Church and Clergy of England, in their Councils, Synods, Convocations, Conventions, and other Publick Assemblies, Historically deduc'd from the Conversion of the Saxons to the present Times, by W. Wake, D. D. &c. Occasion'd by a Book entitul'd, The Rights, Powers, and Privileges of an English Convocation, Fol. 1703. S*

† *An Account of the Proceedings between the two Houses of Convocation, which met Oct. 20. 1702. particularly, of the several Proposals made for putting an end to the present Differences, 4to, 1704.*

* *A Representation made by the Lower-House of Convocation to the Archbishops and Bishops, Dec. 1704, [with a large Preface] 4to.*

† *The Bishop of Sarum's Charge at his Triennial Visitation, 4to, 1704. 3 A. 24.*

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† *Proceedings in the present Convocation relating to the Dangers of the Church, and the Protestation against the Irregularities of some of the Lower Clergy. 4to, 1706. S. in this Volume.*

† *His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury's Circular Letter, to the Right Reverend the Lords Bishops of his Province; in*

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† An Account of the Proceedings in Convocation, in a Cause of Contumacy, commenc'd Apr. 10. 1707. 10 A. 5.

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